Daily Report

Central Eurasia

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FBIS-SOV-95-219 *14 November 1995*

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Key Developments

Yeltsin: Opposition Not To Win Majority of Votes

LD1411121895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1135 GMT 14 Nov 95

[By Vladimir Smelov and Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 14 (ITAR-TASS) — President Yeltsin believes that the opposition will get no more than 50 per cent of votes at the forthcoming parliamentary elections. He said as much in an interview with the ORT TV [Russian Public Television] company today, at the Central Clinical Hospital. According to Yeltsin, "the make-up of political forces in the Duma with many centres in it is a normal thing."

Now the Constitutional Court should show a quick and effective performance: it is to give its opinion of the Law on elections, the president continued. "The elections should not be held under any condition without the law, because the parliament will find itself in a difficult situation afterwards and will have to be dissolved," Yeltsin stressed. According to Yeltsin, "no effort should be spared for preventing this situation."

He said he was going to confer with Speaker of the State Duma Ivan Rybkin in the coming days. "We shall have a very serious conversation in order to reach agreement on the text of the laws and have them adopted, so that we shall be able to hold the elections. We should not be afraid if communists or the Liberal Democratic Party gain some superiority at the elections. They are sure to get a certain percentage of votes, and it is natural. We had a one-centre society, and it has revealed its disadvantages."

Yeltsin, Satarov Discuss Upcoming Elections

LD1311153695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1504 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 13 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin's press service issued the following statement on Monday:

"Today Russian President Boris Yeltsin met his aide Georgiy Satarov. The main topic of the discussion was preparations for parliamentary and presidential elections.

"The Russian president made it clear during the meeting that he would be satisfied if the Federation Council adopted a decision determining the date of presidential elections. He hopes that this will ease, at least partially, the tension connected with rumours that presidential elections may be canceled.

"The Russian president is concerned with numerous violations during the first stage of the election campaign, fearing that they may affect the assessment of elections' results. In this connection he noted that it would be a tragedy for the country if the question of the annulment of the results of elections were raised. In his view, this would be a sign that we are poorly prepared for using democratic procedures and would cause unnecessary tension in society. At the same time, Boris Yeltsin is concerned about the criticism of the law on the election of State Duma deputies. He believes that the problems which emerged during the discussion of the quality of this law should be resolved before elections and must not lead to their postponement. The best solution would be to make the necessary amendments to the law on the election of State Duma deputies before the elections.

"The Russian president hopes that the Duma and the Federation Council will find a constitutional solution in the near future making it possible to adopt the law on the formation of the Federation Council.

"Boris Yeltsin believes that we must draw lessons from the previous election campaign and approach presidential elections fully prepared. To this end, it is necessary to find out whether similar problems will not arise with the law on presidential elections. This is also true of the law on the referendum. In this connection the Russian president has issued the necessary instructions."

Earlier today, presidential chief of staff Sergey Filatov told ITAR-TASS that Yeltsin said parliamentary elections to the State Duma must take place as scheduled on December 17.

The president expressed "a firm and categoric position that elections to the State Duma must not be postponed," Filatov said.

The announcement was made after Filatov's visit to Moscow's Central Clinical Hospital where the president is recovering from a heart attack.

Company Directors Favor NDR Over LDPR

LD1311193695

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1725 GMT on 13 November carries a 9-minute report on the "Details" program that Russia's company directors intend to give most of their votes to Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin's party, Russia Is Our Home [NDR], and none to Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's Liberal Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR] at the parliamentary elections on 17 December.

Seventeen percent have firmly decided to vote for the NDR movement with 7 percent likely to do so,

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Professor Boris Grushin of the Vox Populi polling group said tonight on the "Details" program. He was quoting a poll of personal voting intentions among 505 directors at Russia's "largest companies" which was taken by the group in October in eight cities: Moscow, St. Petersburg, Nizhnyy Novgorod, Voronezh, Krasnoyarsk, Chelyabinsk, Volgograd, and Rostov-na-Don.

None of the directors expressed either a firm or likely intention to vote for Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's Liberal Democratic Party of Russia.

Approximately 15 percent, Professor Grushin said, firmly intend to vote for Gennadiy Zyuganov's Communist Party of the Russian Federation with 10 percent likely, 8 percent for Grigoriy Yavlinskiy's Yabloko public association with 27 percent likely and 5 percent for Boris Fedorov's Forward, Russia! public political movement with 3 percent likely.

Mikhail Lapshin's Agrarian Party of Russia, Yegor Gaydar's Russia's Democratic Choice electoral bloc and General Aleksandr Lebed's Congress of Russian Communities each received 3 percent of firm voting preferences in the poll. However, the Agrarian party received 22 percent of likely votes while Russia's Democratic Choice received two and the Congress of Russian Communities five.

The directors were also asked to predict how the electorate as a whole would vote. They forecast the Communist Party in first place followed by Yabloko, NDR, the Agrarian Party, LDPR, Women of Russia, and the Congress of Russian Communities.

Lebed: KRO For Gradual Introduction of Private Property

LD1311173895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1538 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 13 (INTERFAX) — The Congress of Russian Communities (CRC) [KRO] stands for the gradual introduction of private property, CRC leader Gen. Aleksandr Lebed told entrepreneurs and managers from the Rostov Region (southern Russia) at a meeting Monday in Rostov-on-Don, INTERFAX learnt from the Congress press center. Lebed and Duma deputy Konstantin Zatulin, running for the new Duma as a Congress of Russian Communities candidate, are touring the Rostov Region as part of their election campaign.

If the law is not passed, said Lebed, "we may find ourselves on our own soil not even as guests but as lackeys."

"Private property in Russia is possible," said Lebed, but in today's Russia this problem should be solved gradually." First, he said, land should be given to those who till it.

On entrepreneurship, Lebed said "the unsatisfactory course taken by the government means that entrepreneurs are forced to struggle for their survival" and at times resort to "unseemly practices." The situation will not change without the authorities taking active measures to create a favorable climate for investors, he said.

The Congress press service said that later Lebed will visit Novocherkassk and hold meetings with the city public, deputies of the legislative assembly and directors of defense enterprises. Yuriy Skokov, another Congress leader, will also attend these meetings.

Blocs Criticize ORT Attempt To Dictate Ad Formats

MK1011093495 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 9 Nov 95 p 3

[Report by Veronika Kutsyllo: "Electoral Blocs Against ORT. Electoral Blocs Want To Call Their Own Tune"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The drawing of lots to distribute television air time between electoral blocs and associations will take place tomorrow [10 November]. It is already clear today that conflicts between television and potential deputies are bound to occur. According to KOMMERSANT-DAILY's information, ORT's [Russian Public Television] position against having "talking heads" on the screen came under scathing criticism in a private meeting of the heads of central and local television companies with representatives of electoral blocs, held under the auspices of the TsIK [Central Electoral Commission] on Staraya Ploshchad yesterday.

KOMMERSANT-DAILY has already written that ORT intends to decide against electoral monologues on the air and will replace them with moderator-steered debates. According to KOMMERSANT-DAILY's information, the ORT leadership has already signed a contract with VID to produce electoral programs. They can be in the form of debates between two or three party leaders, "roundtables," promotional slots; that is to say, everything provided for in Article 47 of the law on elections to the State Duma, with the exception of one thing: speeches. The TsIK's instruction on a procedure for providing air time on state television and radio company channels sets clear bounds on the notion [of speeches]: A speech represents a "personal address (monologue) of a candidate presenting a preelection program."

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It is this monologue that ORT wants to avoid for various reasons of both a political and an artistic nature. It is precisely because of the desire to act "for the good of the stability of the state" that the ORT leadership desires that any leader of a bloc praising his own advantages should have an opponent in the picture. This is understandable: What if an inexperienced viewer should switch on the television only once, precisely when Vladimir Volfovich [Zhirinovskiy] is making an address, to become immediately imbued with the ideas of the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] alone. From the point of view of the designers who joined ORT not so long ago, "talking heads" seriously tainted "Ostankino's" image two years ago, when many viewers simply turned off the "box" when seeing yet another political statue.

As KOMMERSANT-DAILY has been told by a source at ORT, although the stance of the channel's leadership ("we want it to be interesting for the viewer") has come up against sharp opposition from potential deputies ("in accordance with the law, we choose our own type of agitation"), it remains the same as before. It is, however, quite possible that ORT will have to give up after all: The blocs of different colors have proven to be one for the first time — they want to call their own tune, all the more so because they do not have to pay for it.

Daily Welcomes ORT's Plan for Debates

MM1311205595 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Nov 95 p 3

[Report by A. Makaryev under the "This Is Channel One" rubric: "Keep Your Voice Down..."]

[FBIS Translated Text] They have accused us of all kinds of things but no one has ever accused us of stupidity, S. Blagovolin, general director of ORT [Russian Public Television], said when asked whether there are preparations underway to celebrate the political new year in December.

There will be no repeat of the old mistakes in the "new" political year. But it is inevitable that the country faces a highly political month in the runup to the parliamentary elections. ORT is trying somehow to meet the ordinary TV viewer halfway and vary the presentation of the torrent of political declarations, slogans, and programs that will descend on us from the TV screens in the preelection month ahead.

The ORT directors' idea is simple and, most importantly, makes good television. The point is that out of all the forms of preelection television they are offering the blocs and parties nothing but TV debates and roundtable discussions on Channel One. Channel Two, St. Petersburg Television, and the other TV companies can organize all kinds of monologues and one-man shows if they want. But Channel One will offer nothing but debates. Furthermore, there will be at least three participants at the table for the discussion.

The practical implementation of this idea will at least enable the viewer to compare and contrast the participants in the election marathon.

However, the idea of a TV publicity polemic on Channel One cannot be called absolutely ideal. Primarily because the participants in the debates will be determined by the drawing of lots. And the lottery, as we know, is blind.

Let us imagine for a second that the debating trio consists of blocs of identical or very similar political persuasions. What will they talk about?

It is probably impossible to avoid scenes like the well-known debate between Zhirinovskiy and Nemstov. That is why the anchormen — Messrs. Lyubimov, Kasparov (the one on television), Kiselev (the one from Ostankino), and other experienced journalists will fill that role — will have to keep a very close watch over their charges.

The opponents of the ORT debate initiative are stating that it was devised in support of the Russia Is Our Home [NDR] movement. On that point they are mistaken, it seems to me. This kind of preelection publicity is least advantageous to NDR above all because it is easy to imagine how the various opposition blocs and parties (and they are virtually all in the opposition today) could rapidly unite on a common platform — criticism of NDR. And NDR's representatives will need considerably greater intellectual resources to fight on two fronts.

Meanwhile, the TV debates will demand greater intellectual effort from everyone than the usual preelection monologues do. They will force everyone to explain intelligibly to the viewers what precisely the Duma candidates want to offer the country instead of rubbing salt into one anther's wounds and shouting a lot.

Regional Activities

Chechen Opposition Raises Doubts Over Elections

LD1211180095 Moscow NTV in Russian 1600 GMT 12 Nov 95

[From the "Segodnya" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Chechen representatives have raised another acute issue today — what will happen in Chechnya on 17 December, the day of the elections to the Russian Federation Duma?

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[Begin recording] [unidentified correspondent over video of street scenes, government buildings, and troops checking cars] Dudayev's supporters are categoric about this, declaring that even an attempt to hold elections will mean a resumption of military actions, since so far the main issue has not be resolved, namely the legal status of Chechnya.

[Akhmed Zakayev, representative of the special observer commission, interviewed in street] I do not think anybody will take part in the elections at all. Lists are being compiled so that they can be given out and this is being presented to people as if they were getting humanitarian aid, to which they have to append their signature, all their passport details, address, and place of residence. But people and votes cannot be bought in Chechnya like that. It's a fruitless exercise.

[Correspondent] In the view of the present leader of the Chechen Government, Doku Zavgayev, who so far has not been very willing to talk to journalists on this question, everything will depend on how successfully objective prerequisites can be created which will compel people to believe their lives will change for the better. For the moment, however, Russia's presence in Chechnya is associated with war; ruined houses; shortages of heating, light and water; and with the federal troops, who are regarded in a worse and worse light every day. This is Aleksandr Abramenko, Andrey Ivanov, Aleksandr Novikov, NTV from Chechnya. [end recording]

Election Guidelines

Court Receives Second Inquiry on Election Law

LD1311154495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1341 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 13 (INTERFAX) — The Russian Constitutional Court has received a second inquiry on the constitutionality of the Duma election law. This time the inquiry was submitted by Duma deputies, sources at the Court press service told INTERFAX Monday [13 November].

The deputies, following in the path of the Russian High Court, would like to verify the constitutionality of the law's provision on the 5 percent vote minimum needed for electoral associations to win seats in the lower house of parliament.

The inquiry was initiated by deputy Vyacheslav Nikonov of Ivan Rybkin's Bloc, and leader of the Common Cause movement Irina Khakamada. They stand for cancelling the 5 percent norm under the pretext "it will prevent formation of a representative Duma."

The Duma has refused to discuss any amendments before a resolution of the Constitutional Court on the inquiry of the High Court. Both inquiries are likely to be discussed as a single whole, believe sources at the Court press service.

The Constitutional Court has not decided whether or not to discuss the inquiries. Court sources do not exclude they will be rejected due to possible formal disparity with the law.

Isakov: Yeltsin Against Signing Law

LD1211155495 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1500 GMT 12 Nov 95

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Let's return to the preelection topic in Russia where the situation around the law on elections of Federation Council deputies is being discussed actively.

Vladimir Isakov, chairman of the Duma Committee for Legislation, said that the president is simply looking for a formal cavil, a pretext, so as not to sign the law.

Isakov said that in the blueprint for the law proposed by Vladimir Shumeyko, one can observe the anti-constitutional nature of the clauses about the federal representatives in the Federation Council. He voiced doubt that the State Duma would agree with this variant of the law requiring amendments to the constitution.

Rybkin Opposes Election Postponement

LD1311140095 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1015 GMT 13 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 13 Nov (ITAR-TASS) — [State Duma Speaker] Ivan Rybkin does not agree with Vladimir Shumeyko's suggestion, reported in the press, to postpone the State Duma elections for one to two months. Rybkin told journalists this today after the latest session of the chamber's Council.

"Moving the State Duma elections to a later date is first of all going to cost the taxpayers," the chairman of the State Duma said. The Central Electoral Commission and the electoral blocs have already spent a lot of money on election preparations, he said. If it is wasted this expenditure could tear apart the already thin Russian budget, according to Rybkin.

It is necessary to wait for the Constitutional Court's decision on the Supreme Court's request on the constitutionality of the State Duma election law and after that

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hold elections to the lower house of parliament, excluding the possibility of repeating the "Kazakhstan option," Ivan Rybkin said. As is known, Kazakhstan's Constitutional Court ruled the parliamentary elections invalid.

The Duma Council must define on Tuesday whether or not to include on the agenda of the next plenary meeting amendments to the law on the State Duma elections before the Constitutional Court's decision, Ivan Rybkin said. The Democratic Party of Russia faction insists on discussing this and it should be examined according to the rules, the State Duma speaker said.

Forecasts & Commentary

Zyuganov Views Role of State Apparatus

MM1011120995 Moscow PRAVDA ROSSII in Russian 9 Nov 95 p 2

[Article by Gennadiy Zyuganov, chairman of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation Central Committee: "On the CPRF's Attitude Toward State Apparatus Officials"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Communist Party of the Russian Federation [CPRF] Central Committee is receiving many messages requesting us to explain our position in relation to officials.

It is no idle question and requires a thorough approach. Above all we draw a fundamental distinction between officials and state apparatus officials. The former subjugate themselves to their post and leader, the latter see their duty as being to serve their Fatherland with honor.

In recent years much has been said about the threat of the country's bureaucratization because of the sharp increase in the number of state officials. The mass media have been actively forming the opinion that officials are to blame for all our troubles — corruption, bribery, predatory privatization, and such like.

How do we Communists react to all these accusations?

It is impossible to agree with any of them. But the main question must be answered: Did state officials form the current political regime or did the regime generate this entire army of officials? Circles close to the authorities are trying to shift the blame for robbing the people and degrading the country from the political regime to state officials. But we believe that it is the current regime that is the orchestrator of destruction and the state apparatus that is the executor of its will.

Let us recall how, beginning in 1990, the state apparatus was purged, how for the purposes of political self-seeking the authorities on various pretexts booted out of state institutions officials who were highly skilled, selfless, and most committed to the interests of the state and the people, and how they were morally persecuted by fabricated accusations of having so-called privileges. Following the principle of personal commitment to the new authorities, not only they but also many administrators and leaders of enterprises, sectors, and regions were replaced by recruiting into power "laboratory chiefs" and "junior research associates" whose distinguishing features were hatred of everything from our own country, a frenzied passion for destruction ,and a pathological need to enrich themselves. A new long line of new loyal underlings stretched out behind them.

Such officials were needed by people like Yakovlev, Burbulis, Gaydar, Chubays, Shakhray, and Kozyrev in order to create a sturdy mechanism to disintegrate the country, plunder its wealth, and perfect methods of corrupting and depraving society.

Yes, the gentlemen reformers were up to their task all right. They created a corrupt mafia stratum which obeys their orders and whims.

But what have state officials and the entire so-called nomenklatura got to do with it? It is easy to pick out the bribe-takers and embezzlers from their ranks, and 99 percent of them turn out to be ideological brothers of the "new Russians," or to be exact, ordinary compradors for whom the Fatherland and our culture and history became the most popular commodity.

Those who, fearing accountability for their deeds, are creating and peddling myths of "omnipotent officials" and "bureaucratic piratization" are single-mindedly tackling their own personal objectives. They are trying:

— to shift responsibility from the real to imaginary culprits;

— to make the population hostile toward the state apparatus as a whole;

— psychologically to push honest officials into participating in the nationwide Russian pilfering and plundering;

— to undertake yet another redivision of power and ownership with the aim of finally securing them for foreign capital.

We Communists understand these actions, and we are ready to expose them consistently.

The country will always be in turmoil if the formation of the state apparatus, the assessment of an official's activity, and the prospects for his advancement are determined by political bias rather than his professional qualities.

Historical experience has proved that the state apparatus operates without hitches only when people who are

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honest, highly skilled, and committed to the cause are working at all levels in it.

We believe that a state official must be protected by the law from bribery, blackmail, and administrative pressure.

No sociopolitical structure can exist without a state apparatus. Everything is determined by which tasks the authorities in question tackle. If they tackle the tasks of strengthening the state and enhancing its role in protecting the interests of the individual and society, they will invariably turn toward people of honor, conscience, professional competence, and a great sense of responsibility. Our Fatherland has always had plenty of such people. The Russia of today is not short of them either.

Boris Fedorov Cited on Coalition Government

LD1111144695

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow NTV in Russian at 1635 GMT on 8 November broadcasts its regular "Hero of the Day" program, which consists of a 25-minute studio interview with Boris Fedorov, leader of the Forward, Russia! movement and former finance minister in the USSR government of Ivan Silayev, by program presenter Yevgeniy Kiselev.

In his introduction, Kiselev says: "Boris Fedorov has appealed to the leaders of all the leading, democratically orientated, electoral blocs and associations, including not only those traditionally understood by the term Yavlinskiy and Gaydar, but also Russia Is Our Home [NDR], General Gromov's My Fatherland, Ivan Rybkin's Bloc, Volskiy's Industrial Party, and a number of other associations, to agree on the future creation of a State Duma of a broad coalition, which would be able to put forward its premier, whose candidacy would suit the president, and form a government based on this principle."

Asked whether it is reasonable to expect, for example, NDR's campaign leader Sergey Belyayev to agree to the bloc's leader losing the post of prime minister, Fedorov says:

"I think that both Belyayev and Chernomyrdin and many others should have the interests of the state closest at heart. It is obvious that if, after 17 December, we do not have a government based on 10-12 parties which express reasonable — more or less reasonable — viewpoints, then we will have confrontation again, and a very fragmented parliament again, which is constantly fighting the government. I think that 1996 will be very difficult if we cannot reach agreement."

Fedorov explains that he is not saying that no NDR members should be in the new government, although he personally does not see Chernomyrdin in the cabinet. Fedorov believes the main issue is to find candidates who satisfy these 10-12 parties.

Kiselev says Fedorov has suggested that Boris Gromov might be defense minister in the coalition government, Ivan Rybkin foreign minister, Svyatoslav Fedorov minister for foreign economic relations, and Oleg Soskovets would remain a deputy prime minister. Fedorov says he believes that Bella Denisenko would make a good health minister, and maybe Aleksandr Vladislavlev as industry minister. "We're not talking about my government," Fedorov says. "I would take part with pleasure if a position was found for me, a position to do with the economy of course. If I were to create my own government, then even those people I have just named would probably not be in it."

Kiselev reads from a recent interview given to DELOVYYE LYUDI by Yuriy Skokov, former Security Council secretary and leader of the Congress of Russian Communities, in which Fedorov is described as an incompetent, ignorant and irresponsible person. Asked how he would describe Skokov, Fedorov says: "I would say that those kind of people are without principles and opinions, they change them regularly depending on the situation. Today they love Yeltsin, tomorrow they don't, the next day something else will happen."

Fedorov says he is categorically against any change in the law before the elections. He says that he would stand in a single-seat constituency.

Asked whether he thinks Forward, Russia! belongs to the category described by Yabloko Deputy Viktor Sheynis as piranha parties — political parties which take one or two percent of the vote — Fedorov says: "Without doubt we will cross the 5-percent barrier; who else is there to vote for in our country, strictly speaking?"

Forward, Russia! can be compared to the British Conservative Party or the U.S. Republicans, in that they are a party of patriotic conservatives who support a market economy, Fedorov stresses. To a comment from Kiselev, that there are a lot of parties like that, Fedorov replies: "No, not any more. We have a clear ideological niche. Neither Gaydar, Yavlinskiy, nor the others who call themselves democrats express the interests we do. We have our own electorate."

Moving onto economic issues, Fedorov says the government should not be holding the shares for loans auctions so near to the elections. It gives the impression that they are acting in haste in order to get rid of property in case

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it is not possible to do so after 17 December. Fedorov says that many western bankers and businessmen have expressed amazement that such a gigantic scheme is taking place in so short a timeframe. There is a place for such a scheme, Fedorov acknowledges, but not a month before the elections.

"If, for example, you count the cash dollars in our country, they are credit for the American Treasury; if you count flight capital and the like, then we have been financing the West for a long time, rather than the West financing us," Fedorov says. If the Russian Central Bank invested some of its reserves in the most reliable Russian banks, then the state could make millions of dollars to spend on social programs, he adds.

On the Central Bank, Fedorov says Vladimir Khandruyev is a far better candidate for bank head than Tatyana Paramonova.

On the presidential elections, Fedorov states: "We will decide this issue in January, depending on how many seats we have in parliament, what support we have. We will either support someone or put someone forward ourselves."

Asked whether he would stand himself, Fedorov says: "Any citizen over the age of 35 cannot rule out this possibility."

Parties' Voting Slip Order, Prospects Viewed

MM1411104395 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 Nov 95 pp 1-2

[Article by Boris Slavin: "Election Roulette Wheel Spinning"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Although the election race started a long time ago, it was only last Friday [10 November] that the participants learned which number they would be allocated on the voting slips.

The number-allocation show was reminiscent of a game of roulette. The representatives of the registered parties and movements (and there are already 42), wishing to get the low numbers on the list, had to be content with seeing what number ball the revolving drum set up on the stage by the electoral commission would throw up for them.

The participants' attitude to this procedure differed. Some regarded it as the product of "hidebound" thinking, others as "a complete lottery," still others as "a democratic procedure." A. Fedulova, representative of the "Women of Russia" association, who did not regard the chosen method as the best, told your PRAVDA correspondent after winning ball No. 1 that she was not just "satisfied" but "overjoyed." The representative of the CPRF [Communist Party of the Russian Federation], which got ball No. 25, said that it would have been better to have had No. 15, which went to the little-known "Common Cause" association.

The Party of Working People's Self-Government got the "easy to remember" No. 35, while A. Rutskoy's "Derzhava" got No. 2. The representatives of this association, which had suffered a setback at the hands of the electoral commission, embraced each other in joy. But other big associations were unlucky: They all got numbers in the twenties, thirties, and forties. They include the KRO [Congress of Russian Communities] (No. 31), the "Agrarians" (No. 41), and the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] (No. 33). Ultimately it will be the election results which will show whether the number on the list plays any role at all.

As a preliminary poll of election association leaders shows, they are all counting on beating the 5-percent barrier. In the view of V. Mishin from the "My Fatherland" association, which has withdrawn from the I. Rybkin bloc, it will get 5 percent or it should not have started this business. Svatoslav Fedorov is confident that his party has its own electorate, which will give it more than 5 percent. There is no need to mention the Communists. They are confident in their voters, who are bound to given them at least 15-20 percent. At the same time the Communists are complaining that the official media are ignoring them. In the view of A. Kryuchkov, one of the leaders of the "Communists-Working Russia - For the Soviet Union" bloc, whereas there are hours of democrats on television screens, TV devotes literally seconds to his bloc.

The 5-percent barrier looks low to the representatives of the LDPR, the Agrarian Party, and the "Derzhava" and "Yabloko" movements. But it is ludicrous when either a totally unknown association like the "Association of Defense Attorneys" or K. Borovoy's Economic Freedom Party, which is notorious for its scandals and failures, has such pretensions. The latter's leader is still contending to journalists that his party will clear the 5-percent barrier as a result of surprises which have been prepared in advance. But it not these but other surprises which might influence the fate of the elections. What, for example, are we to make of the attempt, recently supported by V. Shumeyko, which I. Rybkin bloc representative V. Nikonov made to lower the actual 5-percent barrier with the aid of the courts? Lowering it in this way, the architects of this initiative claim, would make parliament more representative and reduce the dominance of the big associations, particularly of the opposition parties.

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And although both Yeltsin and Chernomyrdin have opposed any changes to the election process, they could occur at any moment. Particularly if the Constitutional Court, to which the question of the constitutionality of the 5-percent barrier has been referred, adopts a decision to abolish it before the elections, a situation requiring the elections to be postponed indefinitely would arise. Shumeyko's long-standing dream would come true. If the Constitutional Court adopts a decision to abolish the 5-percent barrier after the elections, an even more complex situation would arise because all elections in general would be deemed illegitimate. It would then be necessary to schedule new elections. The possibility of the latter option could become reality if the radical opposition wins a clear majority in parliament.

While Russian democracy continues to play roulette the people's situation is becoming worse and worse: Prices are rising, plants are closing, wages are not getting or months. But the voice of the people is not yet being heard. Will it be heard at the elections?

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ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 14 Nov

LD1411065695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0541 GMT 14 Nov 95

["Press Review" — ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 14 (ITAR-TASS) — Forthcoming elections in Russia remain in the limelight of the Russian press. One of the questions raised by today's newspapers is whether the rules of the game under which the election campaign began will be changed. A resolution to this effect will be passed by the Constitutional court after it has looked into an inquiry lodged by the Supreme court whether the law on elections complies with the Russian constitution. In particular at issue is a mandatory five per cent barrier which should be cleared by election blocs which, otherwise, will be deprived of seats in parliament.

ROSSIYSKIE VESTI quotes Speaker of the State Duma Ivan Rybkin as saying that the grounds for challenging the results of the elections to the State Duma will appear when 51 per cent of the voters cast their ballot papers in favour of parties and blocs which have not cleared the five per cent barrier envisaged by law. The newspaper says that Chairman of the Central Electoral Commission Nikolay Ryabov expressed satisfaction with the fact that the inquiry into the Constitutional court had been made before, rather than after the elections. Ryabov believes that it is easier to amend the law on election now, rather than to declare the results of the elections invalid. The newspaper pointed out that holding the elections on legitimate grounds is the necessary condition for the legitimacy of the elections in the eyes of Russian citizens.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA carries an article entitled "Who will gain by breaking down the elections", which comments on the inquiry lodged with the Constitutional Court whether the law on elections complies with the constitution. The newspaper believes that the Supreme court might have been influenced by the results of unofficial sociological polls which have determined four most favoured blocs expected to be elected to the State Duma, including the Communist party of Russia, the Liberal Democratic Party, The Congress of Russian Communities and the Agrarian Party. " However, if the Kremlin manages to postpone parliamentary elections, this will ultimately discredit the leadership of the country and will narrow the chances of democrats and centrist parties, making them illusory," the newspaper said. KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA conducted a poll among 2,064 people from Russia's main regions, asking them whether they intend to take part in the elections on December 17. A total of 30 per cent of respondents definitely said that they would come to the polling stations, 28 per cent said they were undecided, but would rather go to the polls, while every tenth respondent said they would not take part. A total of nine per cent resolutely said "no", and the remaining 14 per cent said they had not made up their minds yet.

NEZAVISIMAYA KRESTYANSKAYA GAZETA carries an article on its front page, analyzing methods of canvassing used by different election blocs in rural areas. The newspaper pointed out that it was rural constituencies that had enabled the Agrarian Party to win a status of the second best faction in the State Duma. "There are two tactics to win over rural voters. The first one is undisguised bribery and the other one is to make a promise of radical changes in the agrarian policies in the event of coming into power. However, it is agrarian issues in the election platforms which, as a rule, turn out to be the extremely weak, the newspaper said.

IZVESTIYA writes about an official election campaign which begins on television on November 15. The newspaper pointed out that the majority of election blocs taking part in the TV marathon preferred outlining their election platforms in live TV broadcasts to any other form and genre suggested to them by TV managers. "We are expected to face TV "dictatorship" of the candidates," the newspaper concludes.

TRUD carries an interview with former speaker of the Russian parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov who admitted that he was concerned over repeated statements made by leaders of Chechen militants Shamil Basayev and Dzhokhar Dudayev about a possibility of staging terrorist acts in Russian regions and using nuclear and bacteriological weapons. The newspaper quoted Khasbulatov as saying that "we should be prepared for attempts to carry out subversive and terrorist acts with the use of any hazardous weapons if the former policies of "no peace, no war" in Chechnya are continued.

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Text of Yeltsin's FRY Sanctions Veto Letter

MM1311155495 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 11 Nov 95 p 3

[Letter No. Pr-1614 from President of the Russian Federation B. Yeltsin to Russian Federation State Duma Chairman I.P. Rybkin at the State Duma of the Federal Assembly, signed in the Kremlin, Moscow, on 9 November: "Presidential Veto: An Unconstitutional Law Cannot Be Adopted"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The adoption of the Federal Law "On the Phased Cessation of the Russian Federation's Participation in the Implementation of the International Sanctions Introduced Against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia [FRY]" was due to a desire to do away with restrictions which have had an adverse effect on the living standards of the FRY's population, to strengthen traditionally friendly relations, and to restore full-scale cooperation in both states' interests.

The president of the Russian Federation shares the Federal Assembly's concern over the situation prevailing on the territory of the former Yugoslavia.

Measures are being taken by the Russian side within the UN Security Council and the Contact Group and on a bilateral basis with the aim of settling the crisis on the territory of the former Yugoslavia.

The question of lifting the sanctions on the FRY forms a substantial element of this settlement.

Representatives of the Russian Federation are currently acting as mediators in direct contacts between the leaders of the opposing sides with the aim of securing a political settlement on the territory of the former Yugoslavia.

Russia has recently been engaged in energetic efforts to make use of the available opportunities to alleviate the situation of the FRY's civilian population. Large-scale humanitarian aid is being provided. More than 5,000 tonnes of diesel fuel for humanitarian purposes is being supplied to the FRY in compliance with the procedures laid down by the UN Security Council.

The unilateral (even phased) cessation of the Russian Federation's participation in the implementation of the sanctions introduced against the FRY by the UN Security Council, as envisaged by the Law in question, would constitute a violation by Russia of its commitments under the UN Charter and would be contrary to the Russian Federation Constitution, which enjoys supreme juridical force on the territory of Russia. Under Article 15 of the Russian Federation Constitution, such a law would have no juridical force.

The Russian Federation president, as guarantor of the Russian Federation Constitution, must take account of the provisions of Part 4 of Article 15 of the Constitution, particularly as UN members' commitments under the Charter take precedence over their commitments under any other international agreement.

If such a law were adopted and examined by the Russian Federation Constitutional Court it would be deemed unconstitutional by virtue of the aforementioned reasons.

Moreover, the impossibility of implementing in practice the unilateral measures envisaged by the law, given the lack of a common border between Russia and the FRY, cannot be ignored either.

Russia's unilateral refusal to comply with the UN Charter would signify an attempt to question the system for maintaining international peace and security based on the joint actions of states, particularly the permanent members of the Security Council, which would not be in the Russian Federation's strategic interests.

Detailed arguments concerning the question of the Russian Federation's ceasing to participate in the implementation of international sanctions against the FRY are contained in the Russian Federation President's letter to the State Duma dated 14 September 1995 (No. Pr-1261).

In the light of the aforementioned, and on the basis of Part 3 of Article 107 of the Russian Federation Constitution, I reject the Federal Law "On the Phased Cessation of the Russian Federation's Participation in the Implementation of the International Sanctions Introduced Against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia" adopted by the State Duma, approved by the Federation Council, and submitted for signature and promulgation 27 October 1995.

It is proposed that a conciliation commission be set up to elaborate Russian Federation measures in keeping with the Constitution of the Russian Federation and its international commitments and interests and designed to secure the UN Security Council's repeal of the measures applied to the FRY. The commission personnel could include S.B. Krylov, Russian Federation deputy foreign minister; A.S. Gorelik, director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Department of International Organizations; O.N. Khlestov, professor at the Russian Foreign Ministry's Diplomatic Academy and ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary; and representatives of the chambers of the Federal Assembly.

The creation of such a commission is essential to ensure a uniform foreign policy line by the Russian state in this important question.

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It is proposed that the following points be taken into account:

1. Ways of resolving questions which arise when applying sanctions in accordance with the UN Security Council decision should be sought in persistent work to secure the repeal or modification of the relevant resolutions by the UN Security Council, rather than in the unilateral cessation of Russia's participation in the implementation of sanctions against the FRY, which would be a violation of the UN Charter and would run counter to the Russian Federation Constitution.

The possibility of such a legally justified solution is specified by Russian Federation Presidential Directive No. 516 (Point 8) dated 23 July 1993.

It is proposed that a range of additional measures by the Russian side be determined with the aim of securing the repeal by the UN Security Council of measures against the FRY.

2. The Law (Article 1) lays down that the Russian Federation ceases to participate in international sanctions against the FRY in stages. At the same time the law not only fails to determine the stages whereby Russia ceases to participate in the implementation of sanctions but does not even contain criteria for identifying them.

There arises here the question of which organ of state authority and in what conditions determines the timetable for the cessation of Russia's involvement in the implementation of sanctions.

Such formulations in the Law create a situation of uncertainty during its implementation, particularly as the president and the Government of the Russian Federation are instructed (Article 2) to bring their normative acts into line with the Law within one month.

It is proposed that clear criteria be established for determining the timetable for implementing the range of additional measures by the Russian side designed to secure the UN Security Council's repeal of the measures against the FRY.

3. The situation of uncertainty in the implementation of the Law is compounded by the instruction contained in Article 3 of the Law that the Russian Foreign Ministry inform the United Nations of Russia's phased cessation of participation in the implementation of sanctions against the FRY.

Under Article 4, the Law enters into force from the date of its official publication.

Thus, it is absolutely unclear what the Foreign Ministry should inform the United Nations of: The fact that Russia has ceased participating in the implementation of sanctions from the day of the publication of the Law, the fact that Russia will cease its participation after the Russian Federation president and Government have brought their normative acts into line with the Law, or the fact that Russia will cease such participation in stages after the normative acts have been brought into line with the Law.

It is proposed that measures by the Russian side designed to secure the repeal by the UN Security Council of its measures against the FRY (including the timetable for their implementation) be formulated in such a way as to prevent any disorientation of Russian organizations, the United Nations and its members, or the FRY itself.

4. The fact that a peacekeeping contingent of the Russian Federation Armed Forces is stationed on the territory of former Yugoslavia cannot be disregarded.

It is proposed that the factor of ensuring the Russian peacekeeping contingent's security be taken into account.

5. The solution of the question of lifting sanctions against the FRY forms an indispensable element of the process of a political settlement on the territory of the former Yugoslavia as a whole.

In particular, the cessation of the Russian Federation's participation in the implementation of sanctions against the FRY could be seen as the unilateral lifting by Russia of the embargo on the supply of weapons and military equipment to the FRY while Russia maintains such an embargo against the other states formed on the territory of the former Yugoslavia. This could be exploited by other countries as a pretext for lifting the embargo on the other states formed on the territory of the former Yugoslavia.

It is proposed that the additional measures by the Russian side designed to secure the lifting of the measures against the FRY by the UN Security Council be linked to the process of a political settlement on the territory of former Yugoslavia.

[Signed] B. Yeltsin [the printed signature in the paper is accompanied by a hand-written signature presumably intended to be that of the president]

NATO Envoy Shevtsov Views Bosnia Plan, Cooperation

MK1411124795 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 14 Nov 95 p 4

[Report by Ilya Bulavinov on interview with Colonel General Leontiy Shevtsov, Russian representative to

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NATO, under the "Russia-NATO Cooperation" rubric: "Optimum Solutions Usually Emerge on Their Own"]

[FBIS Translated Text] After Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev and U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry managed to agree on the principles of Russian participation in the military part of the peacekeeping operation in Bosnia and left it to their subordinates to agree on specific matters of coordinating the actions of the two countries' units, the negotiating parties took a time out; the ministers, until 27 November, when Pavel Grachev will arrive in Brussels once again to attend a NATO Council meeting and to discuss the problem of control over the operation — and the experts, until the middle of this week. Colonel General Leontiy Shevtsov, first Russian representative to NATO, who is to become deputy supreme commander of the multinational peacekeeping forces in Bosnia in charge of Russian troops, is to return from Moscow to Mons, the NATO supreme command in Europe, tomorrow. Your KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondent Ilya Bulavinov managed to meet with Leontiy Shevtsov in Moscow.

Leontiy Shevtsov, 49 years. Graduated from the Tashkent Combined Arms High Command Military School (with an honors degree), in 1968; and the Frunze Academy, in 1977. From 1990 to 1992, chief of staff of the 8th Guards Army. In 1992, graduated from the General Staff Academy. In 1992-1993, commander of the 1st Guards Tank Army. From 1 March 1993, deputy chief of the Main Operational Directorate. From late December 1994 to April 1995, chief of staff of the group of federal troops in Chechnya. Since March 1995, first deputy chief of the Main Operational Directorate [GOU].

The Chechen campaign, like the Afghan war, has made many generals famous — those who proved their professionalism in combat conditions began to be tipped as candidates for top military posts. Those whose names were on everybody's lips in the first place, however, are for various reasons keeping a low profile. Airborne troops commander Ivan Babichev has enrolled in the General Staff Academy; Lev Rokhlin turned down offers to take up posts in Moscow, while his participation in the electoral list of "Russia Is Our Home" can by no means be attributed to his political ambitions. Anatoliy Kvashnin, first deputy chief of the GOU, who headed the group of federal troops in Chechnya for a few months, was promoted — he became commander of the North Caucasus Military District. It is a general who has until recently been keeping a low profile, however, who has come to the fore unexpectedly both for outside observers and for himself. Initially, Pavel Grachev also wanted to make Colonel General Leontiy Shevtsov, first deputy chief of the GOU (he headed the staff of the federal group of forces in Chechnya) a district commander, but in the end it turned out differently. He became the first Russian representative to the Supreme Command of the Joint NATO Forces in Europe. He will also have a key role to play in devising and carrying out a peacekeeping operation in Bosnia.

In Shevtsov's view, the plan he drew up together with General Joulwan, NATO supreme commander, Europe, and approved by Defense Minister Grachev and Defense Secretary Perry in Brussels, is the best possible option for Moscow. Russia will be represented in the operation by a separate contingent, command over which will be exercised only through the Russian deputy commander of troops who will be enforcing the future agreement. That the Russian forces will not play second fiddle can be illustrated by the following fact: They will operate in the approximately 50-km long, so-called Posavin corridor that connects Serb-held territories. In addition, after many days of discussions, the sides agreed that the contingents will have deployment locations on the territories of all warring sides. Otherwise, Shevtsov thinks, the "Berlin scenario" is bound to recur; that is, Russians deployed on Serb-held territory and, for instance, Americans on Croat territory, may be dragged into a confrontation with each other. In Shevtsov's view, yet another month is needed to prepare the operation in detail. In order to work through the details of the future operation, Colonel Aleksandr Lentsov, formerly deputy commander of the 104th Airborne Division in Ulyanovsk, who was appointed commander of the Russian peacekeeping brigade, is also leaving for Belgium together with Shevtsov.

Still, apart from purely military problems, which are set to be successfully resolved nearly without doubt, the main question concerning political control over the operation remains unresolved. (Moscow does not agree that it will be carried out by the NATO Council, while Washington rejects the Moscow-proposed "16 plus 1" format, being fearful of giving Russia the right of veto.) In Shevtsov's words, such control is needed first of all in order promptly to determine who violated the agreement and to make a decision on enforcement measures. The general urges all rules of the game to be agreed upon before the operation has started: "A serviceman must know in what situation he can open fire. Unless this is specified in detail, we will either condemn them to a court martial or, on the contrary, frighten them and somebody will become impudent and they will not know what to do."

However, according to Shevtsov, a more global problem than the establishment of peace in Bosnia is currently at stake: "A mechanism for influencing regional conflicts is

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being created, for, unfortunately, this conflict is unlikely to be the last one. Apart from persuasion and economic measures, one needs to have an effective force to fall back on." The general, who has worked at NATO for a month and does not make any bones about the fact that he sees the alliance as a potential adversary, is fully optimistic about the prospects for cooperation between Russia and NATO. On the one hand, he believes, "NATO is a reality that cannot be disregarded." On the other, "the NATO leadership understands that it cannot survive in its current shape after its enemy has disappeared. For this reason NATO is taking over yet more objectives, particularly peacekeeping. Solving European matters without Russia, however, is not a wise policy."

After many months of debate about the ways and methods of cooperation between Moscow and NATO, the problem has been solved as if by itself. The question is whether this will be an equal partnership.

Russian Troops Enter Gorazde

LD1411103695 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 0600 GMT 14 Nov 95

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] A convoy of the Russian battalion has entered the Bosnian enclave of Gorazde, in spite of the Muslim authorities' attempts to prevent the Russians going there. This was reported by Joe Sills, official spokesman of the UN Secretary-General.

Pro-Serbs Accuse Tudjman of Crimes Against Humanity

LD1311150695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1341 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 13 (INTERFAX) — The presidential rejection of the law on Russia's gradual withdrawal from international sanctions against Yugoslavia arouses doubts about the intentions of the executive branch of power to help the Serbian people, Chairman of the Duma Security Committee Viktor Ilyukhin told a Moscow news conference Monday [13 November].

He is convinced that an undeclared war against the Serbian people is under way in the Balkans.

The chairman of the committee for Serbian rights Igor Shafarevich told the news conference his committee has worked out an appeal to the International Court of Justice accusing the Croatian President Franjo Tudjman of crimes against humanity.

The ousting of Serbs from Serbian Krajina in Croatia has become an official policy of the Croatian president, Shafarevich said.

"This goes beyond the framework of ethnic purges and can be regarded as a holocaust," the appeal to the International Court of Justice says.

Chief Negotiator Welcomes East Slavonia Agreement

LD1311135895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1112 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 13 (INTERFAX) — The basic agreement on East Slavonia, Baranja, and West Sremcica, signed by representatives of the Krajina Serbs and Croatian government yesterday, makes it possible to solve the problem of the Serb populated areas in Croatia peacefully by political means, Igor Ivanov, the chief Russian negotiator at talks on a settlement in former Yugoslavia, said in a statement released in Moscow on Monday.

The accord "offers the real chance to avoid a tragedy similar to what earlier happened in Krajina when scores of thousands of Serbs left their homes and became refugees," the source notes, stressing that the accords were possible thanks to the realism and responsibility displayed by Zagreb and the local Serb authorities. The talks succeeded thanks to "direct intensive contacts between the leaders of Yugoslavia and Croatia in Dayton" mediated by the U.N. General Secretary's Special Envoy Torvlad Stoltenberg, and the Contact Group of Russia, U.S., Britain, France, and Germany.

The agreement "removes the basic obstacles to fully normal relations between Croatia and Yugoslavia, crucial for a comprehensive settlement in the Balkans," the statement stresses, giving an assurance that "Russia is ready to spare no pains to foster our traditional friendship with Belgrade and Zagreb alike.

'Confidential' Arms Consultations Under Way in London

LD1311144395 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1352 GMT 13 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Solomin]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, 13 Nov (ITAR-TASS) — Confidential Russian-British and Russian-American bilateral consultations are taking place in London. The Russian side is represented by Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Mamedov, who is presently in London. Today he will meet with experts and leading officials from the British Foreign Ministry. Tomorrow G. Mamedov

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will have talks with U.S. Under Secretary of State Lynn Davis.

According to information received by an ITAR-TASS correspondent from competent sources the discussions will focus on issues of disarmament, control over disarmament, and international agreements currently in force in this sphere. Other issues related to the development of Russia's relations with Great Britain and the United States will also be discussed.

Nigeria Receives Condemnation Over Executions

LD1311215295 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1507 GMT 13 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Viktor Khrekov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 13 Nov (ITAR-TASS) — It is with "deep regret" that Russia learned about the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa, the well-known human rights campaigner and internationally recognized political writer, and his comrades in arms in the struggle for the rights of the Ogoni people in southern Nigeria. This was stated to ITAR-TASS today by Grigoriy Karasin, director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Press and Information Department.

"We convey our condolences to the relatives and friends of the executed," he said.

The diplomat said that the fact that the Nigerian military authorities ignored international public opinion and calls by many countries, including Russia, to show a humane approach and apply universal legal norms to the accused, including the right to an independent trial and appeal, "deserve nothing but condemnation." The Nigerian authorities, he said, "have once again set themselves against the world community in the sphere of human rights and freedoms, and sown serious doubts with regard to the sincerity of the plans for a gradual democratization of the country announced earlier."

"Voicing our concern about the developments in Nigeria, we have to point out to the Nigerian side the inadmissibility of such actions," Grigoriy Karasin stressed.

Ambassador to Nigeria To Be Recalled

LD1411110995 Moscow INFORMATSIONNOYE AGENTSTVO EKHO MOSKVY in Russian 1035 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Grigoriy Karasin, official spokesman for the Russian Foreign Ministry, told Moscow Echo radio station that in the next few days the Russian ambassador in Nigeria will be recalled for consultations.

Yeltsin, Kazakh President Hold Working Meeting

LD1411103795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1026 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 14 (ITAR-TASS) — President Boris Yeltsin today had a working meeting with Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev, ITAR-TASS was told at the Presidential Press Service.

The sides discussed prospects for the development of bilateral relations and the relations of the two countries within the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

The heads of the two states have agreed to contribute in every possible way to the implementation of the accords on the creation of financial-industrial groups in different sectors of their economies. They stressed the importance of Russo-Kazakh partnership and interaction in international affairs.

The two presidents also discussed some current problems linked with financial and commercial relations between the two countries. They shared the view that the upcoming CIS Summit in Moscow will be an important landmark in the development of the Commonwealth.

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Political Issues

Yeltsin's Interview on ORT Reported

LD1411104195 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 14 Nov

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Vladimir Smelov and Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 14 Nov (ITAR-TASS) — "I can feel the wheel of the great ship that is Russia and I have my hand on the pulse," Russian President Boris Yeltsin said today in an exclusive interview for Moscow Public Television First Channel Network [ORT] in Russian, which he gave this morning at the Central Clinical Hospital. "The restoration of my health is going fine," the head of state stressed.

"All this noisy campaign in the mass media of the United States and in our MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS claiming that I need an operation is simply idle talk," the head of state said. "I don't need any of this, I need some time to get better, and my health will be as good as before the illness."

Satarov Interviewed on Meeting With Yeltsin

LD1411094795

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow NTV in Russian AT 2120 GMT on 13 November in the "Versions" program carries a 10-minute live or recorded studio interview with presidential aide Georgiy Satarov on his meeting with President Boris Yeltsin in Moscow's Central Clinical Hospital on 13 November.

He states that the half-hour meeting took place partly in connection with his general duties and partly because of the president's concern over the electoral law. Asked by "Versions" presenter Sergey Dorenko whether Yeltsin looked well, Satarov says he was "pleased" with the way the president looked: "Of course, he is less mobile than usual, the doctors won't allow him to move about a lot, but in terms of his appearance, the way he talks to people and what he says, Yeltsin is his normal self."

Asked what Yeltsin said about the elections, Satarov says:

"As far as the presidential elections are concerned, he is still concerned about the rumors about their possible cancellation, and so on and so forth. Therefore, he is very much hoping for a decision by the Federation Council which will finalize the date of the elections. It won't quash the rumors but it will alleviate the tension somewhat and he is counting on that. We mostly spoke, of course, about the elections to the State Duma, about that entire situation and the president outlined the problem which would arise if the results of the elections were revised, if the elections were annulled as a result of such a revision."

Such a revision, he says, would be "improper, to put it mildly, in all senses, in regard to the people who turn out to vote, the city, the whole world, the public exchequer. And second, of course, there is the possibility of tension."

Asked what Yeltsin proposes in this situation, Satarov said:"He agrees that the electoral law is flawed, and thinks the best solution would be to adopt amendments before the elections — amendments which would not mean the elections need to be deferred, but which would remove the fundamental criticisms of the law, so that there would then be no serious grounds for a revision."

Refraining from answering Dorenko's question about whether it might be suicidal for the powers-that-be to insist on holding elections now, Satarov disputes any suggestion that the results are already clear-cut: "Nobody knows what the election results will be, except for the Lord God, and I'm an agnostic anyway, so even that's dubious. Everybody keeps referring to various public opinion polls and the differences in percentage ratings between the first, second, and third parties, but this is all highly imprecise, so it is absolutely pointless trying to predict anything. If one-third of the voters who turn out to vote decide to cast their vote for somebody on the very final day, what's the point of engaging in arguments with people now?"

He goes on to say that the order of the parties on the ballot paper will play only a minor role, people are too mature to vote for just the first names on the ballot paper because that is how they are presented, he said.

Responding to Dorenko's observation that the president "has announced in public that he wants to prevent the communists from coming to power," Satarov says: "Those are your words, not the president's. He put it rather differently," adding that rephrasing the president's words makes the comment unconstitutional. "Such an outcome is indeed possible, and would be a most dangerous one," he adds.

Dorenko comments that in the event the communists were to come out ahead, there would be a certain consensus between the democratic strata in society, western leaders, the Kremlin, and all those who lost — and the election law would be to blame. Satarov replies that the situation would be similar to that of 1993; if the law is deemed to be anticonstitutional, the elections would be ruled invalid and the president would be compelled to dismiss the parliament elected under the law. Satarov said he thinks there is time to amend the electoral law, if the Duma has the will.

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Filatov Details 13 Nov Meeting With Yeltsin

LD1411125095 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 14 Nov 95

[Video report by unidentified correspondent; passages in quotation marks recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [video shows Presidential Spokesman Filatov speaking to journalists] Sergey Filatov, presidential spokesman, discussed Yeltsin's increased work load this week. Filatov met with Yeltsin on 13 November.

[Filatov] "I saw, of course, a healthy person capable of work."

[Correspondent] Journalists asked why the president remains in the hospital.

[Filatov] "I am not a doctor, so it is difficult for me to surmise. Apparently there are some procedures and a regime which requires his presence, shall we say. I cannot say the president has to work in his office, that is not at all essential. He can run the state without being in his office."

[Correspondent] Filatov related his meeting with Yeltsin yesterday. In particular, they discussed setting up a foreign policy council with coordinating functions. Filatov made it clear that Andrey Kozyrev's resignation was not raised while discussing this issue.

During the meeting a great deal of attention was paid to the upcoming elections. According to Filatov, the president is concerned by the proposal from various forces that the elections be postponed.

[Filatov] "The elections scheduled for the 17 December have to be held."

[Correspondent] Filatov noted that the Constitutional Court will decide to lift or retain the 5-percent hurdle. He also said that analysts in the presidential administration have identified nine parties which they believe will pass the 5-percent hurdle.

Filatov To Draft New Structure for Administration

LD1311143995 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1355 GMT 13 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 13 Nov (ITAR-TASS) — Head of State Boris Yeltsin today gave instructions to Sergey Filatov [chief of the president's staff] to draw up a new draft structure for the president's administration.

The chief of the president's staff told ITAR-TASS this after his meeting with Boris Yeltsin in the Central Clinical Hospital.

Sergey Filatov said that the structure of the future president's administration would consist of several units. He singled out a foreign policy branch, envisaging the creation of a foreign policy council. It is proposed that domestic policy and state service units be set up. A presidential aide (for example, Georgiy Satarov, Dmitriy Ryurikov) or group of aides will take charge of each unit.

However, there should be no changes in the leadership of the president's administration.

Foreign, Civil Councils To Be Set Up

LD1411143695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1320 GMT 14 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Natalya Panshina]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 14 (ITAR-TASS) — A council on civil service is to be formed by the Russian president in compliance with the law on the fundamentals of local self-rule and on civil service, head of the Russian president's office Sergey Filatov told a news conference here on Tuesday.

The Council on the Personnel Policy already functions at the Russian president. However, it was set up by a presidential decree before the above law was adopted.

The newly formed body will include six representatives from each of the following state institutes: the president, the government, the State Duma (Russian parliament lower house), the Federation Council (upper chamber) and the judiciary. The new council will also shoulder coordination functions concerning the Council on the Personnel Policy.

Filatov also reported Yeltsin's instruction to study establishment of a foreign policy council in order to step up the president's influence on foreign policy and foreign economic activities in which many subjects of the Russian Federation increased their participation in the recent past.

The president is likely to head the council. Filatov stressed that the establishment of this body is not connected in any way with talk about a dismissal of the foreign minister. He underlined that Yeltsin positively spoke about Andrey Kozyrev.

Speaking about the president's instruction on reorganisation of the president's office, Filatov noted that this problem was discussed for a long time. In line with the president's previous instruction, the office was already cut by 230 people by last spring, all in all, by 400, taking into account vacancies.

However, the process of reshuffling has not been ended.

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The task now is to change the office's structure in such a way that "it would better conform to the president's functions in all areas defined by the Constitution".

All structures of the president's office will be grouped by spheres. The main of them are the foreign and domestic policies, the state-legal sphere, presidential programmes and human rigths protection. Filatov stressed that the leadership of the president's office will not be changed.

Premier Urges Resolution of Land Ownership Issue

LD1411133695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1207 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TULA, Nov 14 (INTERFAX) — The question of land ownership in Russia should be resolved as fast as possible, Prime-Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said Monday [13 November] evening at a conference with local leaders in Tula, south of Moscow.

He said there is a long way to good results in Russian farming and related industries and stressed the need for faster reforms in this sphere of the economy. "We should decide about land ownership, partial decisions are of no help," he said.

Chernomyrdin stressed that he supports competition between all forms of ownership in farming. "But fair competition requires equal terms," he said.

Speaking of the problems of the defense industry he said he intends to hold a conference with the directors of key munitions plants soon.

Chernomyrdin named as the key tasks of the defense industry the preservation of jobs and an increase in the production of civilian goods. He said the government defense contract will remain next year and even increase compared to 1995. There is no need for Russia to manufacture military goods on the old scale, the prime-minister said.

He returned to Moscow Monday evening.

According to well-informed sources, on Tuesday Chernomyrdin might be received by President Boris Yeltsin now receiving treatment at the Central Clinical Hospital.

During the possible meeting Chernomyrdin is likely to inform the president about his visit to Tula and discuss current political affairs.

Yeltsin's Staffers Leave To Fill Government Vacancies

MK1411142495 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 14 Nov 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Mass Exodus of Presidential Staffers Begins"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Reorganization of the president's staff, begun more than a year ago, is nowhere near an end.

The fact is that cuts in the number of Kremlin bureaucrats are supposed to be approved by Boris Yeltsin's edict. Shortly before his illness, the president received the draft of a new personnel list. The president did not have time to sign it, however.

Thus, practically the entire staff becomes disestablished. Only the heads of administrations and chiefs and heads of sectors have been confirmed in their positions. Most chief and leading specialists and experts are still disestablished and can be discharged at any moment under the expected edict on a new structure of the presidential administration.

All that has resulted of late in an increased number of separation applications. Incidentally, members of the president's staff are mainly leaving to fill vacancies in the government.

Commission for Protecting State Secrets Created

LD1411120795 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0704 GMT 14 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 14 Nov (ITAR-TASS) — "A working group has been set up to prepare documents for an interdepartmental commission for the protection of state secrets," First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets told ITAR-TASS today.

The Russian president signed an edict on 9 November authorizing the creation of an interdepartmental commission for the protection of state secrets. Oleg Soskovets has been appointed chairman of the commission, while Mikhail Barsukov, director of the Federal Security Service, and Yuriy Yashin, chairman of the state presidential commission for technical matters, have been appointed his deputies.

Biomedical Research Threatened by Lack of Funds

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[FBIS Media Note] Russian research on the exotic Ebola virus has been continuing against a background of deteriorating funding for biomedical research. According

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to OGONEK, applied medical research has seen "50-70 percent drops in financing from year to year." As a result, Russian biomedical science has experienced unusually high brain drain "because of the high quality of research in this field." An estimated 25-50 percent of scientists 30-45 years old have left the country. Major research institutes have tried to become self-sufficient by producing medical products, but relaxation of energy price controls combined with government regulation of pharmaceutical prices have made it a difficult endeavor (OGONEK No 23 Jun 95, ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 25 Jul 95).

Press reports indicate that a number of major biomedical institutes are in dire need of funding. A common claim is that the institutes are unable to pay for utilities and are in constant peril of having them shut off by privatized companies. Directors of the institutes emphasize the consequences of shutting down the special air cleaning and refrigeration systems — the loss of vaccine and museum strains and the danger that extremely lethal microorganisms could be released, endangering the public health.

This summer Vektor State Science Center director, Academician Lev Sandakhchiyev successfully used these arguments to persuade the Ministry of Finance to cover the Vektor electricity bill (LITERATURNAYA GAZETA 15 Jun 95). In contrast, eighteen months earlier, the same ministry refused to fund "normal activities" at the State Science Center for Applied Microbiology in Obolensk—despite a request from First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets "in the name of the Russian government" (ROSSTYSKAYA GAZETA 25 Jul 95)—on the grounds that the Russian Federation's reserve fund is to be used only for emergencies. The Obolensk center, which reportedly does "cutting-edge" research in genetic engineering and is "equipped to handle the most dangerous organisms," continues to be threatened with having its utilities shut off for "intentional failure to pay debts" (ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 25 Jul 95).

According to OGONEK (No 23 Jun 95), "every month men with monkey wrenches come to turn off the water and electricity" at the Scientific Research Institute for Virology, threatening Russia's vast collection of indigenous viruses and samples of all viruses received from abroad. The institute provides strains to all CIS virology laboratories and serves as the depository for all useful viruses, including vaccine strains and the corresponding antisera. While the virology institute has received a $50,000 Soros grant, it has a 700 million ruble debt.

Raising a different justification for government funding of biomedical institutes, ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA reporter Sergey Ptichkin (25 Jul 95) pointed out their value in providing defensive measures against biological weapons. Ptichkin, while denying that Russian scientists ever created "military mutant" viruses, claimed that the U.S. has been continuing offensive biological warfare research. "You can economize on anything except two Russian centers — the Virology Center in Koltsovo near Novosibirsk and the Microbiology Center in Obolensk near Moscow," he wrote. He noted, however, that the Obolensk center has been reduced to making nails on the grounds of its "closed" microbiology base.

Coming so soon after the Zaire outbreak, the recent spate of articles on Ebola research in the popular press may indicate an effort by institute directors to lure back needed funding by playing off current official concerns. Recent cholera and malaria epidemics started by travellers have sensitized Russian officials to the possibility that Ebola could also be imported. During the 1995 Ebola outbreak in Zaire, they stringently screened travellers from the affected region, kept suspected cases under observation for 20 days (IZVESTIYA 23 May 95) and set up isolation wards (IZVESTIYA 23 May 95, SELSKAYA ZHIZN 22 Jun 95, TRUD 24 Jun 95).

Showcasing Valuable Achievements

Press articles detailing medical institutes' financial problems also list recent scientific developments that could be exploited if money were available. In addition to Ebola vaccine and antiserum, innovations spotlighted include:

— a map showing the distribution of "hundreds of strains" of viruses which the Institute for Virology's arbovirologists collected on the territory of the former Soviet Union, including some previously not thought to be indigenous (OGONEK No 23 Jun 95).

— a "complete atlas" of indigenous viruses, also compiled by the Institute for Virology. The atlas is unlikely to be published in Russia because of the limited audience and high printing costs (OGONEK No 23 Jun 95).

— cancer diagnostic methods and treatments, interferon, genetically engineered insulin, and soil bioremediation microorganisms, all created at the State Science Center for Applied Microbiology in Obolensk (ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 25 Jul 95).

Experts See VX-Gas in Kivelidi Murder

WA0311215995

[FBIS Media Note] KOMMERSANT-DAILY has published the first explicit report that a chemical warfare agent was used to poison murdered banker Ivan Kivelidi this August (KOMMERSANT-DAILY 21 Oct 95). The

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information appeared in an article describing statements by Kivelidi's Russian Business Roundtable (RBR) colleagues, who say that arrests are imminent in the case. Officials, however, have denied that allegation and have been trying to downplay the progress made in the investigation.

Experts at the Institute of General and Inorganic Chemistry told KOMMERSANT-DAILY (21 Oct 95) that the victim's medical symptoms, together with the oily liquid state of a substance collected from Kivelidi's office telephone, point to the use of an organophosphorus chemical warfare agent. Specifically, they suspect the neuroparalytic agent VX (O-ethyl-S-beta - dissopropylaminothylmethylphosphate). Previous press reports only hinted at the possibility that a chemical warfare agent had been employed (IZVESTIYA 11 Aug 95, KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 11 Aug 95, see also, FBIS Media Note, "Organophosphorus Chemicals Suspected in Banker's Murder," 957A1088).

Officials May Have Identified Poison

Kiviledi's RBR colleagues recently told reporters that investigators had managed to identify the poison used on the banker. Alexander Orlov, head of the RBR coordinating council, claimed that analysis of the poison had yielded "precise results" and that they are of "exceptional importance." Nonetheless, Orlov refused to name the substance, citing the secrecy of the investigation. RBR vice president Shcherbakov also said that investigators have identified the composition of the poison used (KOMMERSANT-DAILY 21 Oct 95).

Chief investigator Kondratov, who refused to either confirm or deny allegations made by RBR representatives, would say only that the crime was unique in its execution and in the chemical composition of the compound used. The investigator minimized his team's findings, saying that the sample of poison taken from the telephone had proved too small for analysis and that the banker's symptoms were too nonspecific to identify the chemical used. He also criticized Federal Center for Forensic Examination representative Voskerchyan for reporting investigation results to the Russian Business Round Table. Voskerchyan told KOMMERSANT-DAILY that RBR employees had distorted his words and that he had told RBR only that no inorganic compounds had been found in Kivelidi's organs and that the heavy metal salts poisoning theory could now be laid to rest (KOMMERSANT-DAILY 21 Oct 95).

Narrowed List of Suspects

Kivelidi associates also said that identification of the poison had led to identification of the murderers.

— Kivelidi's brother Grigoriy Gushchin told KOMMERSANT-DAILY that investigators believe the victim's office telephone was poisoned on the night of 31 July, when three guards were on duty, and that a bank employee, whom he refused to name, was suspected (KOMMERSANT-DAILY 21 Oct 95).

— RBR vice president Shcherbakov said that the investigators "knew" that the poison was sprayed on the membranes of telephone receivers in the banker's office. This procedure could only have been performed using a gas mask or respirator, a fact which he said "considerably narrows down the list of suspects." The composition of the poison also led the investigators to seek the murderer among individuals who could obtain the ingredients "for criminal purposes," he said (ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 19 Oct 95). Commenting that the culprit was likely to be "some clandestine political group" (Moscow RIA 20 Oct 95), Shcherbakov claimed that the names of both the "organizers of the murder" and the perpetrators were known and that "the individuals responsible" would be arrested within 2 weeks (ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 19 Oct 95).

— Alexander Orlov, head of the RBR coordinating council, echoed Scherbakov, saying that "the criminals" would be arrested soon. But chief investigator Aleksey Kondratov called Orlov's announcement "a fantasy not based on the materials of the case" (KOMMERSANT-DAILY 21 Oct 95).

Suspect or Witness

An earlier KOMMERSANT DAILY article (15 Sep 95) reported that police had searched the home and dacha of Kivelidi acquaintance 29 year-old chemist Boris Agaronyants, confiscating some chemical reagents. The chemist's father told reporters that his son was a suspect in the murder and that officials had placed him in a psychiatric hospital where a quarantine prevented his family from seeing him. The father also claimed that he and his wife had spent four days under house arrest. Chief investigator Kondratov reported that the younger Agaronyants, whom officials had hospitalized for schizophrenia, will be questioned as a witness in the case once he is discharged.

Agencies participating in the Kivelidi murder investigation include the Moscow Prosecutor's Office and "several security agencies," (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 19 Oct 95). The Russian Business Roundtable has also established a million dollar fund to reward information on the case and has allocated money to pay experts.

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Decree Grants Extra Funds for Foreign Ministry

MM1411112195 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Nov 95 p 5

[Russian Federation Government Decree No. 1029, signed by Premier Chernomyrdin in Moscow on 23 October: "Questions of the Financial and Material Position of the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The measures recently adopted to improve Russian Federation Foreign Ministry's working efficiency have had a positive impact. But the financial position of the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry and the material and social position of Russian diplomatic service staff require additional urgent measures.

With a view to resolving the problems that have built up in the everyday life of the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry and improving the effectiveness of its activity in accordance with the Russian Federation president's decisions, the Russian Federation Government decrees that:

1. The Russian Federation Finance Ministry shall ensure funding for the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry in full in accordance with the federal law "On the Federal Budget for 1995" with a view to paying off the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry's debts to outside organizations in respect of operating expenses and the remuneration of staff at the ministry's central apparatus in accordance with the conditions laid down by Russian Federation Government Decree No. 861 of 19 July 1994.

2. It shall be laid down that staff at the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry central apparatus shall be paid annual bonuses in the amount of seven times their salary as well as monthly supplements to the pay of staff at the ministry's central apparatus with access to state secrets, in accordance with Russian Federation Government Decree No. 1161 "On the Procedure and Conditions for the Payments of Percentage Supplements to the Pay (Salary Scales) of Officials and Citizens with Access to State Secrets" of 14 October 1994 (SOBRANIYE ZAKONODATELSTVA ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII, 1994, No. 25, p. 2718).

The Russian Federation Finance Ministry shall make the necessary changes to the size of the labor remuneration fund for staff at the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry central apparatus and submit the corresponding proposals to the Russian Federation Government.

3. The remuneration plan for staff at Russian Federation Foreign Ministry foreign establishments shall be reviewed, bearing in mind the increase in the pay rates of junior diplomatic staff and administrative and technical personnel. The Russian Federation Foreign Ministry and the Russian Federation Finance Ministry shall submit agreed proposals on this issue within one month for consideration by the Russian Federation Government.

The Russian Federation Foreign Ministry in conjunction with the Russian Federation Finance Ministry shall draw up and submit by 1 May 1996 under the established procedure proposals for the revision of pay rates for staff at Russian Federation missions in foreign countries with severe climatic or sanitary conditions or low pay in accordance with the appendix (Footnote) (Not being published).

Russian Federation envoys in foreign countries heading Russian Federation missions shall receive a monthly foreign-currency supplement of 20 percent of their pay to reflect the special nature of their work. The Russian Federation Foreign Ministry shall determine the differences between the size of these personal supplements.

Russian Federation Government Decree No. 1161 of 14 October as regards the payment of monthly foreign-currency supplements of 10-25 percent of pay shall be extended to foreign employees [zagranrabotniki] of the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry with access to state secrets depending on the degree of secrecy involved.

The Russian Federation Finance Ministry, in execution of Russian Federation Presidential Edict No. 272 "On Additional Measures to Enhance the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry's Working Efficiency" (SOBRANIYE ZAKONODATELSTVA ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII, 1995, No. 12, p. 1034) of 14 March 1995 shall make provision in October 1995 for funding for expenditure of 10 billion rubles on building a new complex of official buildings for the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry. The Russian Federation Ministry of Economics shall examine the possibility of allocating additional funds for the aforesaid purposes on the basis of the results of the fulfillment of the state investment program in January-September 1995.

5. The Russian Federation Finance Ministry shall fully ensure funding for the work to create a special information system for foreign policy issues at the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry, to equip foreign establishments with computer and communications equipment, and to introduce in 1995-1996 promising cryptographic equipment and automated systems for processing encoded information to ensure rapid coded communications with foreign establishments in accordance with Russian Federation Presidential Edict No. 272 "On Additional Measures to Enhance the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry's Working Efficiency" of 14 March

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1995, and shall pay off debts for work done under these programs.

The Russian Federation Ministry of Economics in conjunction with the Russian Federation Finance Ministry shall examine the question of allocating $800,000 in 1996 targeted for the acquisition of office equipment, spares, and consumables for the needs of the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry, as well as $1.4 million for the technical reequipping of that ministry's press center.

6. It shall be deemed expedient as of 1997 in shaping the federal budget to allocate a separate line-item of appropriations to ensure the activity of the Russian diplomatic service (the central apparatus of the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry and its foreign establishments).

[Signed] V. Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Government

[Dated] Moscow, 23 October 1995
No. 1029

Military Issues

Grachev Orders Troop Reinforcements to Moscow

MS1311143795 London THE SUNDAY TIMES in English 12 Nov 95 p 18

[Report by Carey Scott: "Troops Move Up To Jittery Moscow"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow — Pavel Grachev, the Russian defence minister, has ordered troop reinforcements to Moscow from across the country to beef up elite divisions of the army. The move comes as speculation over Boris Yeltsin's deteriorating health casts a shadow over parliamentary elections, which many now doubt will be held as scheduled on December 17.

The Taman and Kantemir divisions, strategically positioned outside the capital and the key to its defence, are to be brought up to 100 per cent strength, according to government sources. Full-strength divisions are virtually unheard of in today's poverty-stricken Russian army, where many units operate at less than 50 per cent.

Grachev has not issued such an order since September 1993, on the eve of the storming of the Russian White House. The shelling of the parliament on October 4 was led chiefly by the Taman and Kantemir divisions, commanded by officers loyal to Grachev.

"God was with him in August 1991, and again in October 1993," said one officer. "Grachev wants to make sure his back is covered in Moscow a third time, should the need arise."

The redeployment reflects a mood of deep unease in the Russian capital over Yeltsin's fading health in the run-up to the parliamentary poll.

Changes of power in the Kremlin have never been smooth. Russian observers are concerned that if Yeltsin moves onto the critical list, a state of emergency could be called and the elections cancelled. This could produce violent protests from communists and nationalists the so-called red-brown alliance who are expected to do particularly well at the polls.

Despite almost hysterical protestations by his aides to the contrary, observers believe Yeltsin's health is getting worse. Kremlin watching has been replaced by hospital-gate watching, as the Russian public notes which advisers are allowed in to see the ailing leader and for how long.

Yeltsin's press secretary, Sergey Medvedev, reacted with outrage to a leaked CIA report last week which said that the president needed to go abroad for an operation. But the force of his remarks was somewhat reduced by the fact that he never sees Yeltsin.

"We have informed Bill Clinton that Boris Nikolayevich does not need any special assistance, "Medvedev said angrily. "We have in Russia, and in particular in the Central Clinical hospital, all the necessary equipment and specialists."

Despite Medvedev's stolid announcements that the president "is working with lots of documents", the cynics are not convinced.

Grachev is worried on several counts as he ponders a post-Yeltsin Russia. His destiny is seen by many as being inextricably linked with that of the leader: if Yeltsin goes, so does he.

Hoping to insure against such a fate, he has been trying to distance himself from the president's immediate circle: he was recently quoted as saying he had opposed the unpopular war in Chechnya — a far cry from the gung-ho remarks he made at the beginning of the conflict last year.

At the same time the defence chief is fighting battles within the military notably against Aleksandr Lebed, the retired general turned nationalist politician who is one of his fiercest critics. With Lebed's parliamentary campaign in full swing, Grachev has been doing his utmost to prevent the popular hero of the 14th Army from talking to the troops.

Officers were banned from attending a recent speech by Lebed in Tula, his constituency and an important military town. But more than 300 army officers attended

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anyway, in civilian clothes. Grachev's efforts to discourage Lebed from campaigning at an army base in Yekaterinburg were also in vain: when he was prevented from entering the officers' mess, officers and their families joined Lebed in his walk round the base, listening to every word.

Such is the popularity of Lebed and Gennady Zyuganov's communists that the December vote is looking increasingly unappealing to the Yeltsin entourage. In the end, however, the government may be saved on technical grounds.

Representatives of several of the 42 parties registered for the ballot have protested against a clause in the rules requiring that they win at least 5 per cent of the overall vote in order to qualify for seats in parliament. The constitutional court is to consider whether the clause is legal.

Its removal, allowing most of the parties to take up seats in parliament, would be a big boost for Yeltsin and his entourage. A parliament of tiny fractious parties would be much easier for the Kremlin to control than one dominated by the communists, who are expected to win at least 15 per cent of the votes.

A postponement of the elections would he even better for many of the increasingly desperate men in the Kremlin Vladimir Shumeyko, the powerful Speaker of the upper house of parliament, said last week that putting off the elections "would be nothing terrible". But Viktor Chernomyrdin the prime minister and man most often tipped to take over from Yeltsin, has again insisted that the elections must take place. Chernomyrdin's party, Our Home Is Russia, has already invested far too much in the election campaign to want to give up now. Last week it announced that Glenn Hughes, the former Deep Purple bassist, and M C Hammer, the rap artist, had been engaged to perform in promotional concerts for the party.

The concerts are an expensive lure designed to attract young people to the decidedly unhip Chernomyrdin and cronies. As one optimistic party official put it: "After they become our fans, they will vote for us at the elections."

Rybkin Calls For 'Highly Professional' Army

LD1411151295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1359 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 14 (INTERFAX) — Speaker of the State Duma (lower house) Ivan Rybkin says Russia must have a highly professional and well-equipped army which can warrant proper national defenses.

Russia must clearly determine the area of its interests around the world, he said at a meeting with journalists at INTERFAX central office in Moscow on Tuesday.

Rybkin said that instead of trying to rush around the globe, Russia must pinpoint the area of its interests and say: "Gentlemen, keep out of here, it will be bad if you do not!"

He pointed above all to CIS states as Moscow's domain of interests. "The world is full of conflicts and creeping fundamentalism, these are mainly the cause of our troublespots."

Federal Assembly

Federation Council Discusses Presidential Election Date

LD1411085095 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0818 GMT 14 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 14 Nov (ITAR-TASS) — The 29th sitting of the Federation Council, which opened here today, decided to include the issue of setting a date of presidential election in its agenda as Item 28. Its deputies decided that on the first day they would discuss, as planned, legislative initiatives put forward by the Federation Council, including a draft law on the procedure for the formation of the upper chamber.

Duma Committee: 1996 Budget Deficit 3.85 Percent

LD1311220995 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 2040 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The State Duma Budget Committee and representatives of the conciliation commission will set a 1996 budget deficit of 3.85 percent, Aleksandr Pochinok, deputy chairman of the State Duma budget committee, has told Moscow Echo radio live on the air.

Duma Again Fails To Reverse Veto on Draft Amendments

MM1311115995 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Nov 95 p 2

[Report by Vladimir Yermolin: "State Duma Again Stymied by Federation Council Veto"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On Friday [10 November] the State Duma once again tried to overcome the Federation Council veto on amendments to the Law "On Military Obligation and Military Service" providing, in

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particular, for an 18-month term of service for those who were drafted for 18 months (let us remind you that this year, again under a law adopted by the Duma, a two-year term of service is extended to these people). But the required 300 votes could not be mustered.

It is therefore not ruled out that deputies will return to this law yet again.

But the remarkable thing is that the State Duma has finally noticed that every day Russian soldiers are being killed in Chechnya. They voted to summon the power ministers to the Duma, give them a hearing, and then "issue their firm verdict." Incidentally, parliamentarians always react in unison to any wound suffered by their colleagues and create commissions on any pretext. The hope now is that the daily deaths of our young men from Chechen bandits' bullets will finally spur the Duma into adopting an effective rather than a rhetorical decision.

At this same session parliamentarians also reacted to the news that the controlling interest in the "Sukhoy" General Design Bureau is being sold at a knock-down price. It was decided to examine the question of the situation surrounding controlling interests in the country's biggest industrial associations.

Deputies were also given the sad news that the president has rejected the law on additional benefits for deputies which had been adopted in such haste. The law had tried to set higher levels and a special procedure for paying state pensions to parliamentarians who have toiled in the legislative field and gave an entitlement to medical and everyday services on the terms set for members of the government even after their retirement for a well-earned rest. It is will now be necessary to overcome the presidential veto too.

Regional Affairs

Chechnya Reportage: Politics, Negotiations, Military

Grachev: Yeltsin Urges 'Peaceful Solution'

LD1011173095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1705 GMT 10 Nov 95

[By Mikhail Shevtsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, November 10 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Defence Minister Pavel Grachev on Friday discussed the settlement of the Chechen conflict.

During the conversation, Yeltsin urged a peaceful settlement of the Chechen conflict but said that all measures should be taken to prevent further losses among Russian troops.

"The president pointed up the priority need for peaceful solution to the problem but emphasised that no firing at our (Russian) troops should remain unnoticed," Grachev told the press referring to Friday's meeting with Yeltsin at the Central Clinical Hospital.

Grachev said that he was instructed to define and take all necessary measures to prevent losses among Russian troops.

During the meeting, Yeltsin reaffirmed that Russian Interior Minister, Army General Anatoly Kulikov would further exercise control over federal troops in Chechnya, the defence minister said.

Chernomyrdin: 'We Will Not Allow a War'

LD1011113395 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1045 GMT 10 Nov 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 10 Nov (itr-tass) — "We will not allow a war with the Chechen people. However, the irreconcilable armed formations will be countered accordingly," Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said today while addressing a rally to mark the opening of a memorial to the servicemen who have fallen in the defense of their homeland during peacetime. The ceremony was held at a barracks of the Russian Internal Affairs Ministry troops' Moscow district headquarters.

Viktor Chernomyrdin went on to say that the president and government are gravely concerned at the situation in Chechnya. "We are now doing everything to quickly end the conflict. I do not want to predict a timescale, although we have lately made radical decisions and undertaken many steps in order to end the conflict in the Chechen Republic, and to stabilize the situation," the prime minister said.

Speaking at the unveiling of a memorial to the 38 dead servicemen of the Interior Ministry's Moscow district, Viktor Chernomyrdin called upon the law and order bodies to "beat back the turgid wave of crime."

At this difficult time of trial which the state is currently experiencing, what is needed is strong and effective rule, public accord, and civic peace, the head of government noted. The one condition for achieving these goals is a strengthening of legality and law and order, and ensuring the security of the people.

The prime minister called for the fight against criminal excesses to be stepped up. For his part, he gave the assurance that the debt owed to the families of the dead servicemen would be honored, and that the Government

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will do everything in order to provide the servicemen of the interior troops with everything they require.

Commission Views Lists of MIAs, POWs

LD1311154095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1341 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Nov 13 (INTERFAX) — A working meeting of the Special Observer Commission was held in Groznyy Monday [13 November] to discuss specified lists of MIA and detained persons.

Chairman of the Sub-Commission for POW Exchange Lt. Col. Nikolay Romanenko told correspondents they have received a list with 1,380 names from the Dudayev side. The Russian military are expected to find out their whereabouts before November 20. A working meeting will be held on that day to discuss exchange of detained persons.

Romanenko said the Russian side submitted its list of 450 servicemen, whose fate is unknown.

In the past month, detained persons were exchanged privately, on a confidential basis and without the assistance of the Special Observer Commission. Chechen residents exchanged their relatives for Russian soldiers.

INTERFAX Reports on Ossetian-Ingush Conflict

LD1311142095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1145 GMT 13 Nov 95

["Exclusive" report No. 45 of 13 November 1995]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] IN THIS EDITION:

REPUBLICAN LEADERS LOOK BACK ON OSSETIAN-INGUSH CONFLICT

The previous edition of INTERFAX-Exclusive carried an interview with the chairman of Russia's Provisional State Committee for eliminating the effects of the Ossetian-Ingush conflict of the autumn of 1992, Vladimir Lozovoy. That was the first major inter-ethnic armed clash to have erupted in Russia following the breakup of the USSR.

Hostilities between the Ossetian and Ingush people in the Prigorodnyy district of Vladikavkaz continued six days.

Before the Russian Army intervened to bring the conflict to an end 504 people had been killed, 854 others injured and 2,000 taken hostage. Three and a half thousand homes were ruined and about 40,000 people had to flee.

The effects of the conflict are still felt, as armed provocations, murders of civilians and hostage-taking have continued.

President Yeltsin recently formed a special commission to draft a treaty to settle relations and promote cooperation between North Ossetia and Ingushetia.

Nationalities and Regional Policies Minister Vyacheslav Mikhaylov was appointed to chair the commission.

The president asked the commission to draft a treaty on the settlement of relations between the two republics by November 15.

These days, three years after the Ossetian-Ingush conflict INTERFAX has put three questions to the North Ossetian Prime Minister Yuriy Biragov (President Akhsarbek Galazov is away on vacation) and the President of Ingushetia Ruslan Aushev.

1. How do you see efforts by the Ossetian and Ingush side to do away with the effects of the conflict over the past three years?

2. What do you think slows down the implementation of inter-state agreements to eliminate the effects of the Ossetian-Ingush conflict? What is the root cause of such confrontation (if any) and what must be done to eliminate it?

3. What are the lessons of the armed conflict? What would you like your descendants to remember to prevent such tragedies in the future? What is the outlook for Ossetian-Ingush negotiations?

BIRAGOV: TO LIVE IN PEACE IS A COMMAND FROM ABOVE

Efforts by the Russian Federation, North Ossetia and Ingushetia have produced favorable results. Since the 1992 conflict we have lived in peace.

We managed to end the conflict, calm down the people and take positive steps to meet each other halfway. (I am referring to both republics, North Ossetia and Ingushetia). As for specific measures to eliminate the effects of the conflict, one should bear in mind that the worst trouble was in North Ossetia. There was nothing like it in Ingushetia, so the main efforts to eliminate the consequences of the tragedy have had to be taken in our republic.

In the first place, we have to do away with hostile attitudes fomented by the conflict. People lived through a nightmare. There were massacres, homes were destroyed and burnt down. Many lost their relatives.

I am certain it would be very wrong to think that people can return to normal life at once and let bygones be bygones. The authorities should painstakingly promote a favorable psychological climate in the region. For this

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efforts by both sides, North Ossetia and Ingushetia are required. A great deal is still to be done.

I am not saying we've been idle over the past three years. The task facing us is too serious. I would like everyone to remember that three years ago neighbors took up arms against neighbors. Now they must be helped to return to peace and good-neighborliness. This will be no easy to achieve. This will become possible only if the people wish it themselves. To help them embark on the road of reconciliation is the mission of bodies of power, public organizations, various movements and the mass media.

This is what we must do first thing to eliminate the effects of the conflict.

Repairing vital infra-structures and building and restoring homes are another aspect of the problem.

At this point I would refrain from hasty and half-baked judgements and warn others against them, too. Some have been saying: Just bring people to their original places of residence. They will build homes for themselves and do the rest on their own.

True, the presidential message and government resolutions and other legal acts say that the return of people to their places of residence is inevitable. But at the same time there must be extensive preparatory work. People must not be brought to the ruins of their homes. At least the minimum conditions must be created.

As far as I know North Ossetia is the sole part of Russia that has set an example of how to help refugees return home. I believe this is a very important fact.

A few words about what slows down the implementation of agreements. I believe that the seriousness of the conflict is a brake on stabilization. Just think of it, people had lived the way they deemed right for years. Then all of a sudden the residents of the Prigorodny district of North Ossetia were exposed to heavy emotional and psychological pressure. People who had lived side by side for decades began to ruin or set fire to homes and murder neighbors. Things like that are not easy to forget.

And yet people should try to forget those tragic days. There have been ever more meetings of representatives of various groups of the population: housewives, clergymen, teenagers, war veterans and veteran workers. There should be many more such meetings. I am certain that they must be held not by the Provisional State Committee or the republican leaders but the people themselves. The emphasis must be placed on citizens' diplomacy.

Both republics must take steps towards reconciliation. However, if one side takes conciliatory steps, but the other turns one's back on it, it is also a serious obstruction to eliminating the effects of the conflict.

Such things still happen, although Vladikavkaz and Nazran have repeatedly agreed they should no longer accuse each other and describe neighbors as enemies. They should draw a line somewhere and avoid inciting hostilities. The mass media must select and check their reports very carefully. A careless statement in the press may greatly harm the peace process.

Deplorably, our agreements have produced no favorable results. I believe that we in North Ossetia are extremely careful about what we say. We have been trying to avoid raising sensitive topics. Deplorably, our counterparts in Ingushetia have failed to reciprocate.

Examples of this are many, but I am not going to reproach anybody. I am just answering the question what hinders closer relations between the two republics.

As North Ossetia's prime minister and citizen I believe that we are historically destined to live side by side. Since it is so, we should live in peace, because war is not what you call a normal life.

Inadequate financing of repair and construction work is the chief brake on stabilization in the region and a major obstacle to the return of refugees.

True, overcoming psychological barriers is crucial, but the material side of the matter is no less important, too. The term normal life implies peace and accord. War is not a natural condition. No problem can be resolved from the position of strength. In any case I do not know a single problem that has been fully settled from the position of strength.

Solution to no problem is worth the loss of human life. Take the situation in Chechnya. Can the importance of problems being resolved there justify the sacrifices the people have made? Of course, not.

Our descendants and we ourselves must remember that the armed conflict can bring nothing but suffering, grief, bloodshed and casualties. It also leaves hostility, mistrust and continued confrontation.

Yet I am an optimist by nature. I remember the universal truth that no war lasts forever. I am absolutely certain that the day will come when the peoples of the North Caucasus and of the whole of Russia will live a normal life. Trouble spots and conflicts will be eliminated and peace, fraternity and good-neighborliness will rein supreme. This is a commandment from above. I am certain about that.

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RUSLAN AUSHEV: INGUSHES AND NORTH OSSETIANS TEND TO ESTABLISH CLOSER RELATIONS

As he received the North Ossetian President Akhsarbek Galazov, chairman of Russia's Provisional State Committee Vladimir Lozovoy and myself, President Boris Yeltsin in the first place reproached us for unsatisfactory measures to normalize relations between Ingushetia and North Ossetia.

President Yeltsin said outright that the current state of affairs was a disgrace for Russia, which took part in peace-keeping operations abroad, but was unable to settle the dispute between its two member-republics. We really are responsible for this to a certain extent. I can mention many cases in which various officials and executive bodies of power locally failed to follow instructions from the president and government concerning various issues, including the resettlement of refugees.

I believe that after such active interference by the Russian president adequate measures will be taken. Quite a few purely technical problems must be lifted to arrange for the return of refugees to their homes to provide transport and the appropriate registration procedures. In any case we must take every step to leave no room for criticism.

Let me remind you, however, that instructions from the Russian president concern both sides. It is the duty of federal bodies of power and the government of North Ossetia to ensure the security of returning refugees and maintain order in areas where Ingushes and Ossetians live side by side. We shall wait and see what measures the Provisional State Committee and Vladikavkaz will take to this end.

At the meeting in the Kremlin Akhsarbek Galazov said he was going to submit to the presidential office a draft treaty of friendship and cooperation between our republics. We shall now be preparing to sign it.

All problems cannot be resolved overnight. There are some problems our republics won't be able to resolve on their own at all, for instance, the problem of financing. I hope that it will be settled in the end. We shall continue negotiations at the government level and hope they will be more constructive. So far none of the deadlines set by the agreement Akhsarbek Galazov and I signed on July 11 have been met.

What is happening in the republic now is the after-effect of the conflict. Tuberculosis and infant mortality rates in Ingushetia are one of the highest in Russia.

The Ingush government is particularly worried about the problems of the younger generation. A generation with a crippled mentality will be unable to build a normal republic... A decision was made just recently to pay a government grant to children for all youngsters under age. Three billion rubles will be spent for the purpose.

I believe that the international children's festival, whose concept has been welcomed by the Russian leadership, will help improve ties and neighborly relations between all member-republics of Russia. Ingushetia will issue a call to all peoples of the world to stop hostilities for the seven days the children's conference would be in progress.

As for the future of Ossetian-Ingush relations in general, certain positive changes have taken place. North Ossetia no longer argues that Ossetians and Ingushes will be unable to live side by side. This is a favorable development. Ingushetia has established contacts with the leadership of North Ossetia. Contacts are maintained by various organizations and individuals. This indicates that there is the trend to closer, normal relations between our peoples.

Appeal of the Russian Federation's State Committee for Settling the Ossetian-Ingush Conflict in October-November 1992, the government of the Republic of North Ossetia-Alania and the government of the Republic of Ingushetia to the peoples of North Ossetia and Ingushetia

Dear Russian citizens! Esteemed compatriots! The tragic events in October and November 1992 in North Ossetia's Prigorodny Region brought in blood and suffering, fear for the lives of relatives and enormous material and moral damage. Now that we are mourning for the dead, when hundreds of children have lost their parents and homes, the happiness of living in one's own home seems unattainable.

Over the past few years we have realized the simple truth: people cannot be divided on the basis of their ethnic origin or religion. The majority of the people in North Ossetia and Ingushetia are re-evaluating the past events and are trying to restore peace and good-neighborly relations, friendship and cooperation. Wisdom is overcoming biased judgments, enmity and mutual prejudice.

The leaders of the Russian Federation are making every effort to settle the conflict and solve the problems which arose after the events in the autumn of 1992. During the talks on October 11 between Russia's President Boris Yeltsin, President of the Republic of North Ossetia-Alania Akhsarbek Galazov, President of the Republic of Ingushetia Ruslan Aushev and Chairman of the Provisional State Committee Lozovoy, the parties stated in clear terms that President Yeltsin's decrees

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must be implemented and all barriers hampering the normalization of bilateral relations must be removed.

Confrontation is being replaced with political dialogue at the level of the republics' leaders and with people's diplomacy. The peoples of the republics are campaigning for peace and accord on the ancient land of the North Caucasus. Reconciliation is being initiated by our wise elders, clergy, women, youth and representatives of the public.

Now that the work of the governments is acquiring a new meaning, we must analyze our positions and ensure that the sides show deep interest in settling all of the disputable issues, in making compromises and in implementing the reached agreements.

Schools, child-care centers and hospitals are being restored in the populated areas where forced migrants must return. But there are obstacles complicating the citizens' return and problems in building and restoring houses. We are confident, however, that all of these problems are temporary and that the time will come soon when every family will regain its home.

We, the leaders holding the reins of power, are authorized to state that such events will not repeat themselves. We shall do everything we can to ensure the constitutional rights and freedoms of the two republics' constitutional rights.

We are urging the mass media to avoid making unilateral assessments, sowing the seeds of ethnic discord and offending the people's national feelings.

We are also urging the citizens of North Ossetia and Ingushetia, intellectuals, religious leaders and all people of good will to advocate friendship and cooperation. We have no right to pass the burden of unsolved problems onto our children. The neighbor nations did and will live together. Peace and accord must be established in the ancient Caucasus.

[Signed] Chairman of the Provisional State Committee of the Russian Federation, Vice-Chairman of the Russian government Lozovoy

Chairman of the government of the Republic of North Ossetia Alania Biragov

Chairman of the government of the Republic of Ingushetia Didigov

Shakhray Views Kaliningrad Role in Baltic Policy

WS1411111795 Kaliningrad STRAZH BALTIKI in Russian 28 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by Yu. Dmitriyev: "Window on Europe"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **While staying in Kaliningrad, Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Shakhray presented the principal aspects of Russia's "Baltic strategic initiative."**

According to the Russian deputy prime minister, the military-strategical aspect should be the principal one. This aspect concerns the situation of troops in Kaliningrad Oblast and social protection of servicemen and their families. Mr. Shakhray said: "I have always been an advocate of Russia's economic and military-strategic interests in this region. Therefore, we have to make every effort so that Kaliningrad Oblast's economic development is not to Russia's disadvantage, but helps beef up Russia's military potential in this region."

The deputy prime minister stated that Russia would not allow the expansion of NATO to the East. With regard to this, Kaliningrad Oblast "should become a hindrance" to such expansion. Mr. Shakhray said: "If NATO starts to present plans for deploying its tactical and nuclear arms in East Europe, Russia also will begin to discuss the deployment of its military-strategic potential in Kaliningrad Oblast."

At the moment, the deputy prime minister believes that this will be an extreme measure. Russia would not like "to enlarge its military potential here." Thus, Mr. Shakhray said that Kaliningrad Oblast is going to play a special role in Russia's European policy.

Mr. Shakhray referred to the protection of interests of the compatriots living in the Baltic states as the second principal aspect of the Baltic strategic initiative. Establishing television and radio stations on Kaliningrad Oblast's territory broadcasting to the Baltic states will allow a more effective defense of these interests.

Mr. Shakhray also mentioned the possible resubordination of all the services whose work is connected with the protection of the state border. "An experiment may be held in Kaliningrad Oblast on resubordinating all the 11 services (customs, the sanitary- quarantine service, the immigration service, and the like) to one department — the Border Troops." The chief of the Russian Federal Border Service has presented the same resubordination plan at the Security Council of the Russian Federation presidency..

The Russian deputy prime minister believes that the creation of "several development sites," which means local free economic zones, is the principal aspect of

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the Baltic strategic initiative. A port complying with all the contemporary norms and with a full accompanying infrastructure will be established. The "Russia Europort" project has been presented to the seaport in Kaliningrad. According to Mr. Shakhray, the project is supported by the Russian Government and will give a new impetus to the development of Kaliningrad Oblast as a transport center. The "Russia Europort" project envisages the establishment of a "transport link" between Kaliningrad, which is the only Russian open port, and St. Petersburg and Vyborg, as well as with the country's major cities such as Nizhniy Novgorod, Arkhangelsk, and the like through internal navigation routes. Mr. Shakhray said: "It is not good when the principal stream of Russian freight flows through the ports of Riga, Tallinn, and Klaipeda, while the Kaliningrad port operates at 50-percent capacity. The implementation of the 'Russia Europort' project will let Kaliningrad surpass Gdansk and other Baltic Sea ports in the volume of freight circulation." To implement the aforementioned project plans exist to sign an accord on the division of authority between the center and local administration bodies. This project will mean the beginning of addressing issues of transporting freight and passengers through the territories of Belarus, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland, and involve the specific subject of joint management of the Russian Federation and Kaliningrad Oblast bodies. The project also involves the structural transformation of Kaliningrad Oblast into an international transport center and a financial-trade center, accompanied by the establishment of local free economic zones; the drafting of normative regulations of migration processes on Kaliningrad Oblast territory; the resolution of issues of social protection of servicemen and their families, as well as servicemen transferred to the reserve; the resolution of issues connected with the use of properties of liquidated military bases and units; the creation of a separate law for land use which would guarantee rational use of natural resources; and external economic activities.

Economic Issues

Chernomyrdin: Central Bank To Cut Interest Rates

LD1311174995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1742 GMT 13 Nov 95

[By Valeriy Rudenko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TULA, November 13 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said on Monday the Central Bank of Russia would reduce credit interest rates.

Chernomyrdin is on a one-day working visit in the Tula region. Before coming back to Moscow on Monday night, he will meet grass-root activists of the "Our Home is Russia" regional branch.

Chubays' View of Economic Recovery Disputed

MM1411104195 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Nov 95 p 1

[Article by Doctor of Economic Sciences Vsevolod Gmoshinskiy under the general heading "Myths on the Eve of the Elections": "The Falsifiers' Soap Bubbles"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Vice Premier Anatoliy Chubays, on the threshold of the coming elections, has announced that the production recession in Russia will cease by the end of 1995, while from the beginning of next year there are even signs of an upsurge, to the tune of 2-3 percent. A detailed computer analysis of the situation casts doubt on the correctness of this information.

Let us take a brief look at the present stage of production and the immediate prospects for its development. At the same time let us look at the parameters of inflation and labor productivity.

Instrument making is a sector in which technologies characteristic of many other sectors are concentrated: casting, laser technology, printed circuits, metal cutting and pressing, processing of plastics, paint and varnish production, galvanizing, etc. So the estimate of changes in the volume of industrial output is here examined in relation to instrument making.

Thus, the volume of instrument making output has fallen steadily since the beginning of perestroyka. True, phases of a falling volume of output have alternated with phases of a relative lull in the decline lasting from two to six months. But an even bigger decline has then followed. It is now clear to any conscientious analyst that the period that has elapsed is the "great decade of stagnation" and the collapse of production.

Things are not much better in metallurgy, petrochemicals, and chemicals. Here the relative stabilization lasts slightly longer than in instrument making, as long as 8-10 months. But again, after the "lull," there is and has been no upsurge. There is a similar situation in machine tool building, the production of construction and road building machines, and agricultural machine building. Therefore the word "stabilization," on the lips of the country's high-up leaders, is simply disinformation, since people understand that word to mean the ending of the decline in production and the possible improvement of their quality of life.

The ardent falsifiers take the opportunity to present a small mini-upsurge as a general upsurge in a particular sector, or even in the country as a whole. They

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themselves are soon disillusioned in their predictions, but they conceal their blunders from ordinary people.

In his numerous speeches First Vice Premier A. Chubays has stated repeatedly that the government has succeeded in lowering the level of inflation, getting it down to 2-3 percent. All this is, to put it mildly, not so, if we are talking about the real meaning of inflation. Inflation is directly linked with the growth in prices of goods. Surely no one in our country can fail to see that prices of goods and services have been increasing steadily since Gaydar's time. So inflation has been steadily rising since then, and is still rising. As of 1 January 1995 the level of inflation was 9 percent, as a minimum. Inflation, according to Chubays, is a soap bubble that is released with particular vigor on the threshold of the election campaign.

It is well known that in the conditions of an effective economic policy, the money supply should exceed the volume of industrial output by not more than 5-10 percent. In our case, according to presidential adviser Professor M. Bernshtam, the excess is at least 400 percent (!). That is to say, there is an imbalance between production and banking operations. The excess money supply goes "round and round" in commercial organizations, bringing no real benefit either to the people or to industry.

The aforesaid imbalance can only really be reduced by increasing production, since once the money supply is let out of the printing press, like a bird out of a cage, it is not very easy to put it back in the State Bank's safes. In view of these factors, the mechanism for "lowering the level of inflation" according to Chubays becomes understandable. Foreign goods — which now account for 80-85 percent of the total volume — are added to the remaining share of Russian production. This "cocktail" is declared to be "industrial output." The higher the price of foreign goods, the higher the value of the "cocktail," and the smaller the imbalance — and consequently, the lower the inflation rate. A paradox arises, whereby price rises help to lower the level of inflation, whereas in an effective economy everything is precisely the other way about. So here you have a gross, totally undisguised attempt to deceive the people. Those are the emperor's new clothes.

Computer analysis shows that the level of inflation will continue to rise. If you take 1 January 1995 as the starting point, by the year 2000, if the government's economic policy remains unchanged, the level of inflation will reach a factor of 0.232, that is, nearly a 2.5-fold increase against the beginning of 1995.

The labor productivity indicator, like inflation, is closely linked to the indicator of the volume of industrial output. But this indicator [labor productivity] has now disappeared from reports, statements, and assurances by government officials. And that is understandable: This makes it easier for the government to disinform the people on the true state of affairs at state and privatized enterprises.

Since March 1985 labor productivity, like the volume of industrial output, is falling steadily. In instrument making, for instance, labor productivity per worker employed in basic production has fallen by a factor of 5.7.

Yet labor productivity is the indicator that acts like a lens focusing all the defects of the government's economic policy: defaults, delayed wages, long-term unpaid leave, the threat of unemployment, and the lamentable state of industrial safety, especially at mining enterprises.

In conclusion let us emphasize that the decline in labor productivity is in no way dependent on the workers, it is linked directly to the underprovision of components and basic materials required for the job and the shortage of manufacturing equipment and protective clothing, which the bureaucrats do not care about. The bureaucrats have simply given up worrying about industrial output, and do their work, their "hunting," in the sphere of banking and commercial transactions.

Government Analysts Forecast Upturn

MM1311164695 Moscow FINANSOVYYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Nov 95 p 1

[Article by Yevgeniya Pismennaya: "Successes of Stabilization No Cause for Let-Up" — received via Internet]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to forecasts from the government's Center for Economic Reforms the country's GDP will have fallen 3 percent by the end of the year compared with last year's figure. Production volume will have fallen by the same amount. The volume of capital investments will be down by 14-15 percent. Exports will have risen by 31 percent and imports will be up 14-15 percent. Sales of goods and services will be down 9-10 percent.

The situation in terms of real production has begun to improve. This year labor productivity growth has been recorded in certain sectors for the first time. According to Sergey Pavlenko, the center's director, this "indicator was a shock" even for the government itself.

These results are due to the stabilization programs that are being carried out, Sergey Pavlenko believes. Stabilization in the physical production sector is taking place in three stages. Stage one is already over. The

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situation in the fuel, energy, and raw materials complex has improved. It is now time for stage two. Production growth has been recorded in the ferrous and non-ferrous metals industries and the chemical and petrochemical industries. Machine building is next in line. Russian enterprises are aggressively targeting Western markets. The government is confident that the Russian economy will maintain its balance of payments surplus next year.

The budget deficit is extremely low: 2.5-2.8 percent of GDP (this year's budget projection is 5 percent of GDP).

According to Center staff the currency band has achieved its main purpose — it has reduced inflationary expectations within society and among economic components. At the same time, however, problems have arisen over the correlation of internal and external prices and the profitability of export operations. The government believes that it is too soon to free the fixed ruble exchange rate because there are far fewer instruments acting as a block on inflationary expectations than there are "non-economic factors fueling those expectations." The direction of the exchange rate will be changed to halt the "massive negative impact on the Russian producer's export positions." Within the government now there is an active discussion underway about how this change of direction will be effected: whether it will depend on the previous level of inflation or on its plan projections in the 1996 budget. Sergey Pavlenko believes that option two is more acceptable.

The authorities are hoping that "the improvement in the economy will at least continue" despite foreign investors' highly cautious attitude toward Russia. The volume of direct investments has risen by 24 percent since last year, although the absolute investment figure — $1 billion — does not compare with the Russian economy's scale and needs.

The favorable indicators are no reason for a let-up in implementing reforms. The government does not rule out the possibility of "aggressive measures." This is contrary to the position of Aleksandr Livshits, the president's economic aide, who has promised not to make any "drastic" decisions.

An imbalance persists between the rate of increase in prices for means of production and industrial goods and prices in the consumer market. This means that enterprise leaders still expect high inflation. In the consumer market imports are expanding — which is holding down the general level of prices and at the same time creating problems for the country's producers. The continuing lag between the population's real incomes and the last year's indicators is very alarming.

Work on problems of the tax base and budget federalism falls within the category of "aggressive measures." The system of transfers from the federal budget to the regional budgets is now based solely on the legal section of the economy. The government intends to "open the shadow economy up to taxation" by tightening up measures against and sanctions on tax defaulters and by the partial legalization of small and medium business. This should lead some subsidized regions to switch to self-sufficiency. The norms for the redistribution of revenue among the regions next year will be revised.

On condition that a responsible and balanced economic policy is continued next year, Sergey Pavlenko predicted that by the end of 1996 the economy will achieve a positive growth rate: from 1 to 3 percent of GDP and a 1.5-2.5 percent increase in industrial production.

At the same time Sergey Pavlenko acknowledged that he is being kept on his toes by "the government's constant fear of post-stabilization trauma." Even if the results are good, the bulk of the population will not welcome the continuation of the reforms.

Sergey Pavlenko characterized the present economic period as "interim and flawed." "The global problems have been resolved; it only remains now to decide who should clear away the garbage."

Chernichenko, Lapshin Debate Land Reform

964F0321A Moscow ARGUMENTY I FAKTY in Russian No. 44, Nov 95 p 3

[Dialogue between Yu. Chernichenko, chairman of the Peasant Party of Russia, and M. Lapshin, chairman of the Agrarian Party of Russia, prepared for publication by Aleksandr Sargin, under the "Caustic Dialogues" rubric]

[FBIS Translated Text] With these materials the newspaper opens the new rubric "Caustic Dialogues." In it, participants in electoral battles can argue about Russia's current problems, and criticize both the opponent personally and his point of view.

In whose ownership should the land be: the private farmer or the state? It seems that the answer to this question has long been clear. But the approach to dealing with it can be quite unexpected. Today we are publishing the opinions of Duma candidates who believe they know how we should organize Russia. And in the process express their opinion of each other.

Yu. Chernichenko: Lapshin Does Everything To Increase the Ranks of the Poor *Passionate Masculine Love*

There was a time when I had quite a lot of contact with Lapshin, and it always brought to mind a funny

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proverb: "Guys from Tula only look stupid, but in fact they are quite cunning." When I learned that he had graduated from the MGIMO [Moscow State Institute of International Relations] (which meant not only knowledge of a foreign language but also that he was on the "organs" list), I realized that the proverb about natives of Tula was extremely fitting. This is not Starodubtsev yelling: "Plundered! Destroyed! Russia turned into Zambia!"

Lapshin is smarter than that. He is a carefully selected exhibit from the socialist display window: An indicator of when it becomes permitted to wear a fashionable jacket, dance the "twist," and throw in amusing buzzwords in English.

There was a time when Nagulnov studied English. He wanted to create a world revolution. Later this Nagulnov from a home-made sample went into mass production at the MGIMO. Their inner substance is coercion: "I will not let go! I will not let you do it! I will not permit this!" True, the language has changed; the Red Banner medal has disappeared, together with the epileptic seizures; speeches have become smoother. This is already the minimally educated milieu of the directors corps, whose graduates are not going to yell in the streets: "We have been deprived of the most progressive system in the world—the kolkhoz system!" He can write competently, deliver speeches, and listen to arguments.

No person has loved me more warmly and passionately since 1988 than Mikhail Ivanovich. It was something that went beyond normal affinity between men. A practically pathological passion! People call such a relationship being "madly in love." For what reason? For my saying: "A kolkhoz chairman is at the same time a rayon committee slave, a master, a supervisor, and a whip for his workers. He takes care of his people and commands them."

We, the Peasant Party, have only one slogan: "When can a man work free on his own land?" And when we came close to putting into the Constitution a provision on private ownership of land, then the chairman-director corps decided to spare no money or effort and create its own Agrarian Party as a counterweight to the Peasant Party.

Article 36 of the Russian Federation Constitution, in whose adoption I had a hand as member of the Constitutional Conference, says: "1. Citizens...have the right to private possession of land. 2. Possession, use, and disposal of land...are freely...executed by owners..." Well, Lapshin's achievement is that for two years he prevented this article from taking effect. ***The Unexpected Guest Horror***

In these elections his party will, of course, make it to the Duma, because it has a frustrated, socially extremely agitated electorate, and its own stratum of electors. This stratum, along with Mikhail Ivanovich, does everything to increase the ranks of the poor. Because kolkhozes are under the absolute command of the feudalized top echelon, which—and Lapshin is almost 100 percent responsible for this—is guilty of the slaughter of 4 million head of cows over, at most, three years—as much as the total herd of some European countries. Lapshin and his cohorts, with the aid of the president, combined absolute executive authority and the ability to stay afloat by squandering property.

When I think of how many billions it cost to the treasury to build more than 2,000 complexes, these huge industrial farms, and how many of them have been plundered, screw by screw, brick by brick, I am horrified! The contingent that currently heads the Agrarian Party is stable: Just as before, it continues to faithfully and loyally serve the coercive communist agriculture. But now this contingent has become a "Red Island" on the planet. And this despite the fact that the first sign of communism's demise was the disintegration of the unique institution we call by the Russian word kolkhoz. Everybody else has abandoned it: China, Vietnam, Latin America, Europe....

Had Lapshin studied not just English but 15 languages at the MGIMO, would that have changed anything? He remains a complete obscurantist. Russia is doomed to permanent, long-term, and complete plunder. Kolkhozes and sovkhozes cannot perform any creative or constructive work. History gave them a gigantic time period—65 years. The results are there for everyone to see!

And when these people talk about a lost paradise, I think of it as propaganda on the scale of Hitler's lies: arrogant, colossal, without any bearing on conscience or the truth.

I am a man used to standing in line—all my life I have been doing the grocery shopping for my family. This contingent—24,000 [kolkhoz] chairmen—have never bought foodstuffs in a real situation. They had a car trunk as a method of provision and redistribution of privileges, from team leaders to first secretaries of oblast committees. This entire agrarian stratum, including Lapshin, has never known the horror of an unexpected guest arriving when there is nothing to put on a table. People received coupons for meat twice a year. I know what I am talking about—I had a collection of such coupons!

Perhaps Lapshin is sincere. There is nothing diabolical or infernal about him. There is nothing frightening in a

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Stalinist way in him, as there was in Kaganovich. Lapshin is ordinary material, a mass-production man—not hand-crafted. But neither is there anything constructive in his ideology. All he wants is restoration....

M. Lapshin: All Chernichenko Has Is Odiousness
There Is No Such Party, Even Underground

There was a time when I liked and respected this commentator. I remember his great series in PRAVDA "The Bread of the Non-Chernozem," his Lithuanian work, in which he extolled the creation of large agricultural urban-type settlements and the liquidation of private farms, his writings about agriculture in Kuban, and others. But then he gradually began to fade as a commentator and became a fixed-idea, one-sided person, began to see only one way of reform, believing that only small agricultural enterprises will save Russia. Despite being fully aware that Russia at the end of 1980's needed both large kolkhozes and sovkhozes and private farming. That is, it was wrong to make everyone fit the same mold: First there were large kolkhozes, and then we would suddenly dismantle them speedily, in a year or two—as in the 1930's. And Chernichenko, who wrote impressive articles against the agro-GULAG, against hunger, against forcing people to join kolkhozes, began to champion the "dismantle it all" idea.

He began to mercilessly lash out at everything. I disagree with this on principle. With this tunnel vision, one-sidedness, and Bolshevik implacability. I believe that a normal peasant (although Chernichenko broke with the countryside more than 30 years ago) should behave differently, more gently.

This year I visited Nizhniy Novgorod Oblast and looked at the farms where Chernichenko lured people three years go. Everything is abandoned, rundown; nobody needs them—neither the rayon administration nor Boris Nemtsov. While Chernichenko was trumpeting these poor people's "successes" on "Agricultural Hour."

He has now become an odious, tunnel-vision politician with a narrow, small-time outlook. He has ceased being a commentator. What kind of peasant is he, living in Moscow? I think he has become a champion of a certain variety of the neo-Bolshevik idea. And, most importantly, he is a master at labeling people. He can turn someone's words inside out, slap on a label, put a verbal spin on it. And the most interesting part is that he calls himself one of the leaders of the Peasant Party, but in all my travels around Russia I have never met representatives of this party, even underground. ***Urban Origins***

Russia now recognizes different forms of ownership—private and state. We are currently working on a Land Code, trying to make it a reality. A huge number of small plots must be transferred into completely private ownership. We believe that peasants should own land. I do not know what Chernomyrdin is hinting at when he says in his speeches that we are against private property. He just blurted it out, like a gas pipe.

Chernichenko has nothing but odiousness. No economic theory either. He does not stand a chance of becoming an administrator. He is a professional writer, he can write satire or articles. I cannot imagine Chernichenko ever becoming anything more than an anchorman on a television program.

Let us imagine, in theory, that he becomes prime minister or minister of agriculture. Will he be able to pull the country out of the crisis? One needs experience for such things. He is already 66, and has not acquired any such experience: He has never plowed or planted anything anywhere. All he ever did was write. So let him write. This is also an honorable endeavor.

Over the past five years our paths have not crossed. I just occasionally hear a sharp rebuke or conjectures addressed at me—all off-target. What Chernichenko advocates—an economic system based on private property—we have never rejected. Chernichenko has never worked in this environment, while I, as a man and a citizen, for decades "socialized" with a spade, cleaned out manure, tended the pigs, grew vegetable gardens, and took my products to the market. I know what demand and supply is, and price fluctuations. All this has been part of my life. We recognize all options, Chernichenko—only one.

I have been personally acquainted with him since 1989. He reminds me of Sholokhov's Makar Nagulnov, with his extremes and abruptness: bring everybody together, shoot everybody! But he, Chernichenko, is a rather unconventional, original phenomenon. I would even praise him for his originality. He is a man of rare odiousness. Even Makar Nagulnov was more of a pluralist than he is.

To be frank, I like to find something good in people. I wish Yuriy Dmitriyevich would go back to his favorite pen, as in the past, when he did it well. He is not a politician. One cannot speak of the Peasant Party when it does not exist. Lenin Avenue resident Chernichenko and Udaltsov Street resident Gaydar have formed a bloc.... This is laughable. What theory will guide them in rescuing Russia? They probably both live in abstractions. Had Yuriy Dmitriyevich stood firmly with his feet on the ground, he would be unlikely to form a bloc with Gaydar. I cannot imagine what unites them. Probably their urban origins. Nothing else.

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International Affairs

IAEA Team Inspects Khmelnytskyy Nuclear Powerplant

WS1411140195 Kiev UKRINFORM in English 0808 GMT 14 Nov 95

[From the "Current Events" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] As UKRINFORM's energy correspondent reported from Neteshyn in the Khmelnytskyy region of Ukraine, a group of experts from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has concluded inspection of the Khmelnytskyy nuclear power plant's operational safety. The inspection, which lasted three weeks, was carried out at the request of the Ukrainian government. The aim of the mission was to prepare recommendations on improving safety standards at the nuclear plant. The group of experts included specialists from the IAEA, Switzerland, Germany, France, Great Britain, United States, Hungary, and Iran. Speaking at a press conference at the end of the mission, the leader of the group, Robert Taylor, said that a number of measures aimed at improving safety standards are being implemented at the Khmelnytskyy nuclear power plant.

Grain Growers To Receive International Assistance

MM1411130995 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA (Departmental Supplement Section) in Russian 11 Nov 95 p 9

[Unattributed report: "Hello, Hrytsko!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] An initiative of the International Financial Corporation (IFC) announced in Washington is pursuing the very ambitious goal of assisting Ukraine to resume its role as the "granary of Europe" after several decades.

It intends to assist the Ukrainian Government in the privatization of kolkhozes and sovkhozes and of the agro-industrial sector as a whole. Operating jointly with a British company, the British Know-How Fund, the IFC, which is a department of the World Bank and correspondingly a specialized institution of the United Nations, is devising a "model for the privatization of agricultural land." At first it will be tested out at several private farms in Donetsk Oblast, then it will be extended to the whole republic, where the total area of agricultural land belonging to kolkhozes and sovkhozes is 47 million hectares.

The IFC is also devising a "new approach" to the voucher privatization of 4,000 of this former Soviet republic's agro-industrial enterprises. It is being proposed that this will be a genuinely large-scale project, as not only the enterprise workers themselves, but also the suppliers, and the population as a whole will be able to become shareholders.

National Affairs

Crimean Tartars To Organize 'Nonviolent Civil Protests'

WS1411112095 Kiev UKRINFORM in English 0808 GMT 14 Nov 95

[From the "Current Events" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] As reported by UKRINFORM's Sevastopol correspondent on November 13, the Crimean Tartars' Majlis [National Assembly] has announced an immediate end to the political hunger strike embarked upon by members of the Kurultay parliamentary faction. The announcement was made at the end of a meeting of the Crimean Tartars' Majlis. The meeting adopted a decision to embark upon "organization of non-violent civil protests throughout the Crimea."

In a directive issued after the meeting, the Majlis declared that "the deputies of the Kurultay parliamentary faction had risked their health in a desperate effort to ensure that the interests of the Crimean Tartars are properly represented in the Crimean Supreme Soviet and to draw the attention of the Crimean people to the situation in the Crimean Supreme Soviet." The directive further stated that the Crimean Tartars do not enjoy equal rights in the parliament. It added that the hunger strike was intended to jolt the conscience of the parliamentary majority in the hope that they will review their position and thus avert a serious political crisis on the peninsula. As the directive further stated, "the effort to appeal to the sense of reason of the largely chauvinist and separatist parliamentary majority has gone unnoticed," adding that the hunger strike had to be discontinued due to serious danger to the health and lives of the deputies involved." The Majlis has decided to set up an organizational committee in charge of civil protests.

Asked to comment on the decision to discontinue the hunger strike, the chairman of the Crimean Tartars' Majlis, Mustafa Dzhemilev, said that there will be no peace in the Crimea if the parliament continues to ignore the interests of the Crimean Tartar minority. He added that the Majlis intends to organize non-violent civil protests in demand of recognition of the rights of the Crimean Tartars. He added that the Majlis will have to resort to using non-parliamentary methods since the parliamentary option has failed. He, however, noted that the hunger strike has achieved some results: it has "helped mobilize well-meaning democratic forces that understand the problems facing the Crimean Tartars."

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The deputy chairman of the Kurultay parliamentary fraction, Nadir Bekirov, said that the hunger strike should not have been discontinued, since members of the faction were prepared to continue. He added that the faction had to give in top the demands of the Majlis in keeping with internal disciplinary procedures. Mr. Bekirov said that four participants in the hunger strike have been hospitalized on the advise of doctors.

The Majlis has decided to organize mass meting of Crimean Tartars near the Crimean Supreme Soviet on November 15. The deputy chairman of the Crimean Supreme Soviet has departed for Kiev on invitation from Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma.

Crimea's Suprunyuk, Kuchma To Discuss Constitution

LD1411103295 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 0950 GMT 14 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Simferopol (UNIAN) — On 14 November Crimean Supreme Council chairman Yevhen Suprunyuk left on a flight to Kiev with a group of deputies to meet with Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma, the UNIAN news agency learned at the Crimean Supreme Council press office.

Certain articles of the Crimean constitution are to be discussed. According to Yevhen Suprunyuk, they will discuss clauses concerning "issues of coordinating the power-wielding structures" — the main directorate of Ukraine's Internal Affairs Ministry in Crimea, the main directorate of Ukraine's Security Service in Crimea, and the Crimean Justice Ministry.

In the opinion of Crimean parliamentarians, the power-wielding structures ought to have dual subordination, otherwise "the Crimean Supreme Council will not be able to influence them". There is also to be a discussion on the procedure for appointing the Crimean prime minister.

It is not ruled out that an article will be introduced into the text of the Crimean constitution, securing "the right of the session to impose a veto on Crimean government decisions". According to Yevhen Suprunyuk, Ukrainian parliament Speaker Oleksandr Moroz made such a proposal at their meeting last week.

The Crimean Supreme Council chairman also intends to raise the issue of military encampments transferred by the military to Crimean communal ownership.

Kuchma Resists Granting Electoral Quotas to Minorities

WS1411113495 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0143 GMT 14 Nov 95

[By Oksana Hasiuk; "Special to INTELNEWS"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Nov 13 (INTELNEWS) — President Leonid Kuchma on Monday [13 November] resisted pressure for changes in Ukraine's policy toward minority groups, telling representatives of Crimean Tatars and others that such policies must be decided by central, not regional, authorities.

Kuchma and other representatives of Ukraine's central government also expressed strong resistance to the national establishment of electoral quotas similar to those until recently possessed by Tatars and other deported national groups in the Crimean Parliament.

Kuchma, however, meeting with representatives of many of Ukraine's ethnic minorities, promised to consider the creation of a presidential commission to deal with minority affairs.

Refat Chubarov, deputy leader of both the Crimean Parliament and the Majlis Tatar assembly, proposed creation of the commission along with the other minority spokesmen and argued that the country needed to rethink its current concepts of "peoples of Ukraine," as well as "national minorities" and "native peoples."

A particularly revealing exchange ensued after Liudviha Nizhynska, deputy leader of the Federation of Polish Organizations, called for the number of ethnic Poles in Ukraine's Parliament to be guaranteed by quota.

"We should have Polish minority representatives in the Ukrainian Parliament as the Ukrainian minority has in Poland," said Nizhynska.

"Did you run for Parliament?" Kuchma asked Nizhynska.

"No," she admitted.

"If you had decided to run, would somebody have asked you your nationality?" asked the president.

"I'm not talking about myself in particular," she said.

Volodymyr Butkevych, head of the parliamentary committee on human rights and national minorities, joined into the fray against Nizhynska.

"You have three Poles in Parliament. If you aren't satisfied, that means they are not working satisfactorily," he told her.

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Kostiantyn Olaru, leader of Christian-Democratic alliance of Romanians in Ukraine, also demanded quotas for his national minority.

"We are asking for recognition for Romanians the status of native people in Odessa and Chernivtsi oblast," said Olaru.

Leonid Finberg of the Association of Jewish Organizations along with Nizhynska called for the return of houses of worship and other buildings lost by their respective minorities since the revolution.

Virtually none of the hundreds of synagogues confiscated under the Communist government have been returned, according to Jewish leaders.

Finberg also called for a parliamentary law or presidential decree to exempt from taxation investments supportive of minority activity.

Borys Balayan, head of the National Associations and Communities of Crimea, as well as Karel Vasyl, leader of the Slovak Cultural-Educational Association, called upon government delegations to other countries to include Ukrainian leaders of the ethnic groups corresponding to the nationality in question.

Kuchma called this idea "possible" and promised to include Vasyl as part of the Ukrainian delegation when he makes his next visit to Slovakia.

Kuchma on Relations With Legislature, Privatization

WS1311141195 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 1644 GMT 12 Nov 95

[By Mykola Kryvomaz; "Special to INTELNEWS"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kharkov, Nov. 11 (INTELNEWS) — Fate has willed that President Leonid Kuchma lead Ukraine during the hardest period in the country's history, Kuchma said in Kharkov on Saturday [11 November].

One of the main problems is the interaction of the legislative and executive powers, he said.

"There is no [executive] collaboration with the Parliament today," the president said.

Kuchma said that it would be a catastrophe if a parliamentary republic were created in Ukraine because today the state influences the economy — a process that would be impossible without the president.

The president said that quality and results in privatization were more important that quantity. He said that despite the fact that a majority of enterprises are privatized, there has been no improvement in industrial productivity. Kuchma said the country must pursue a strategic course of privatization for large-scale enterprises.

Adding to his worries, Kuchma expressed fears of a brain drain from Ukraine. He said the flight of young minds from Ukraine is a political game that betrays the nation. The president highly appraised Ukraine's technical and industrial potential. The West respects Ukraine because of its significant potential and intellect is the foundation of that respect, Kuchma said. If Ukraine loses that intellectual capacity, Kuchma said that the West will turn away from the nation.

The president gave no specific answer about when Ukraine's new currency, the hryvnia, would be introduced. He was asked whether the transition would occur before a new national constitution would be adopted. Kuchma only said that the government has set a monthly inflation target of 1 to 2 percent so that talks with the International Monetary Fund about a stabilizing fund could continue.

National Bank Head Scrambles To Pay Miners' Wages

WS1311142795 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0152 GMT 13 Nov 95

[By Olha Burda; "Special to INTELNEWS"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Nov. 12 (INTELNEWS) — The government can pay off its debts to coal miners, but not without running the risk of rekindling an inflationary spiral, National Bank of Ukraine Governor Viktor Yushchenko said Sunday [12 November].

Speaking after a weekend meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers, the NBU leader said the government has given him until Tuesday — the deadline set for a nationwide miners strike — to find a way to pay off KBV28 trillion of the debt.

Yushchenko also said that he was diametrically opposed to raiding the special pension fund set aside to aid victims of the Chernobyl disaster to the tune of KBV55 billion to pacify dissatisfied miners, who are owed several months back pay.

"We cannot even talk about this matter," Yushchenko said. Vasyl Yevtukhov, the deputy minister for fuel and energy complex, confirmed his words.

According to Yushchenko, the problem is that the miners cannot find a solvent consumer able to pay for consumed production in a timely manner. He also said the government has to help the Ukrainian miners to find a real solvent consumer.

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"We are able to pay the miners their salary today without question, but if we are not able to avoid a rise in prices, our previous work will be in vain," he said.

He emphasized that the coal industry suffers losses because banks do not want to invest in it, which is why banks, afraid of losing their investments, try to give credits to coal consumers but not producers.

Yushchenko, however, said he hopes to make agreements with the four greatest banks on collaboration to pay the debt to the miners anyway.

The NBU governor also admitted that inflationary credits will probably be issued to pay the miners, but warned that this would cause Ukraine to "lose its financial hope for 1996" and warned of an adverse reaction among the international financial organizations which today help Ukraine balance its payments deficit.

"The problem is that the international associations can skeptically consider our financial disability and make impossible financial assistance to Ukraine," said Yushchenko. "Another problem is a recurrent rise in prices which an average middle Ukrainian person suffers from."

Meanwhile, the Ukrainian Independent Miners Trade Union (UIMTU), citing official indifference, decided on Saturday to end their 11-day hunger strike and call instead for a nationwide industry strike on Tuesday.

Miners are demanding their money up front and remain skeptical of government claims of poverty — a skepticism shared by many of the nations politicians.

Mykola Azarov, chairman of Parliament's Banking and Finance Committee said recently that the monetary turnover of KBV2,000 trillion currently enjoyed by Ukraine's commercial banks should be more than enough to allocate KBV400 trillion to pay miners salaries and reform the ailing industry.

Economic Issues

Unions 'Losing Control' of Situation in Donetsk Mines

LD1311191095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1833 GMT 13 Nov 95

["INTERFAX-UKRAINE" news item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Donetsk, November 13 (INTERFAX-UKRAINE) — Mine workers leaders and unions are losing control of the situation in the mines of Donetsk, Mylkailo Krylov, Co-Chairman of the Donetsk City Workers' Strike Committee, told an IF-U [INTERFAX-UKRAINE] correspondent Monday.

According to him, Pravda mine as well as four sections of the Oktabrskaya mine of the Donetskugol production amalgamation have already been on strike on Monday. Night shift workers of Gorky mine have declared that they will not return to work before the question of pay backlog is resolved.

A meeting of mine workers' teams has been in session in Donetsk since 15:00. It is expected to take a decision on a general strike.

"The talks with the government cannot be described as totally unsuccessful, yet we hoped for more," Mykhailo Krylov said, commenting on the results of the talks between the mine workers and the Government of Ukraine.

M. Krylov believes that the problems of the miners have not been resolved so far because of the ambitions of the strike movement leaders.

According to him, after the meeting at Ukraine's National Bank at 16:00 Monday, it will become known what sum the Government will appropriate for the repayment of the wage default to the miners. The sum can influence in a large measure the resolution of the question of calling a strike, M. Krylov believes.

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Belarus

Investigator Says Former Premier 'Mortgaged' State

LD1111101295 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 0900 GMT 11 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] It transpires that Vyacheslaw Kebich, former prime minister of Belarus and recently elected to the new parliament, mortgaged the republic, which was entrusted to him, for $1.1 billion, according to [Aleksandr Rassolko], a special investigator at the Belarus Prosecutor's Office.

[Correspondent Aleksandr Supnikov] Eighteen months ago, during the presidential election campaign, Vyacheslaw Kebich signed and gave to a foreign national $1.1 billion worth of state loan notes payable to the bearer. The Belarusian Finance Ministry undertook to pay the stated sum to the bearer of the documents in five and ten years. It is now known that Belarus has received no money in exchange for the notes. Belarus is now in debt. State securities, worth millions of dollars, were found in the pockets of a Scottish plumber by the British police. Vyacheslav Kebich, who has avoided journalists for a year and a half, was unavailable for comment this morning.

If this information is confirmed, this will be the biggest scandal in the history of Belarusian power structures.

Official Comments on Delay in Meeting CFE Commitments

WS1411120795 Minsk VO SLAVU RODINY in Russian 11 Nov 95 p 1

[Report by Colonel Vasil Aron: "Conventional Arms in Europe Treaty: We Cannot Meet the Schedule"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The deadline for accomplishing the Conventional Arms in Europe Treaty [CFE] is 16 November 1995. The third and final stage of arms reduction stipulated by the treaty is coming to an end. Belarus has undertaken commitments to keep no more than 1,800 combat tanks, 2,600 armored combat vehicles, 1,615 artillery systems, 294 aircraft, and 80 helicopters after 16 November. However, our Republic will be unable to reach those figures on time. Why?

One of the aims of the visit by Nesil Nedimoglu, NATO verification coordinating committee head, was to find out answers to this question. During the visit, Mr. Nedimoglu visited the Barysaw tank repair plant, where surplus hardware had been scrapped or eliminated, and met officials representing the Security Council, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the National Agency for Control and Inspection. Sharing his impressions about the results of the visit, Nesil Nedimoglu said that he was happy to see how the disarmament process was going in our Republic. He expressed his personal understanding of the financial problems faced by Belarus and supported our state's appeal to the world community for extending the arms reduction process until April 1996, when the level of armaments stipulated by the CFE is met. As a diplomat, Mr. Nedimoglu gave a number of practical pieces of advice regarding Belarus's activities that will help our state retain its political prestige, particularly at the Vienna summit scheduled for 16 November. One of the issues on the summit's agenda will be preliminary summarizing of the results of accomplishing the CFE treaty.

Why did our Republic find itself in the rear ranks of the European disarmament process?

"The reasons are purely economic. We do not have funds," said Colonel Mikhail Valochka, deputy head of the National Agency for Control and Disarmament, who told me how our Republic was observing the CFE treaty.

"As we know, the treaty was signed on 19 November 1990, and officially took effect on 17 July 1992. Meanwhile, Belarus, which became the legal successor to the treaty signed by the USSR, fully ratified it on 9 November 1992. Therefore, the first stage of reductions, during which 25 percent of armaments designated for elimination by the treaty were to be scrapped, began as late as 23 December 1992. Nevertheless, we completed the first stage very successfully, getting rid of 543 tanks (20 percent), 610 armored combat vehicles (42 percent), and 54 aircraft (41 percent). A year later, our Republic accomplished even better results and completed the second stage, which envisioned the elimination of no less than 60 percent of armaments designated for the reduction. As of 16 November 1994, we eliminated 1,303 combat tanks (69 percent of the norm), 1,001 armored combat vehicles (68 percent), and 84 aircraft (64 percent). The third final stage envisioned the elimination of another 570 tanks, 440 armored combat vehicles, and 46 aircraft. However, after 28 tanks and 56 armored vehicles were scrapped, the process was suspended due to the notorious lack of funds.

Belarus' repeated appeals for financial support to the world community turned out to be a voice crying in the wilderness. Nevertheless, after nine months of suspension, the process of scrapping hardware was resumed on 15 October. However, we cannot cope with accomplishing the envisioned task in time to meet the schedule. We need more time, and we need additional funds..."

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Moldova

Chisinau, Tiraspol Fail To Reach Agreement on New Talks

LD1311155795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1341 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CHISINAU, Nov 13 (Interfax) — Working groups of Chisinau and Tiraspol meeting last week had failed to reach agreement on a new round of talks between Moldovan and Transdniestrian officials, Valeriy Litskay, state secretary of the self-styled republic of Transdniestria told Interfax.

He said the two sides who offered mutually unacceptable plans of a Chisinau-Tiraspol relationship had failed to strike a compromise though agreeing to continue negotiation.

The secretary said preparations were in progress to try to clear the ground for a meeting between Moldovan President Mircea Snegur and Transdniestrian leader Igor Smirnov, but experts on both sides are still to come up with new proposals.

Official Says Dniester To Try To Adhere to CIS

AU1411082895 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1930 GMT 11 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, Nov 11 (BASA-press) — Dniester will try to adhere to CIS and attract Moldova in this community, Grigore Maracuta, Dniester Supreme Soviet chairman, stated to the Russian language newspaper KISHINEVSKYE NOVOSTI. "The present relations between Moldova are not good for us," Maracuta said, stressing that Dniester intends to adhere to the CIS economic, customs and security unions. "Our integration in all CIS structures will prevent Moldova's integration with Romania and will contribute to its remaining an independent state," he said. According to him, thanks to Dniester, Moldova "did not find itself embraced by Romania after the People's Front came to power."

Referring to the new Dniester Constitution, he said that it stipulates that Dniester is an independent and sovereign country, parliamentary-presidential, with three independent power branches. According to the same source, the Constitution is to be adopted through a referendum. This will not be a reason for breaking negotiations with Chisinau, Maracuta specified, referring at the same time to the possibility of existence of "two sovereign states with a common statehood," like Tatarstan and Russia. He also said that Russia's presence in the region is beneficent for Tiraspol and for Moldova; it is a guarantee that Moldova will not unite Romania.

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Armenia

Premier Receives Russian Delegation Headed by Chernyshev

NC1311213295 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1300 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Armenian Government Press Service reported that Prime Minister Hrand Bagratian today [13 November] received a Russian government delegation headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Albert Chernyshev. A broad range of issues relating to bilateral political and economic cooperation were examined.

In expressing their satisfaction at the development of multi-sided relations and on the existence of an atmosphere of mutual understanding that assists these relations, the sides noted at the same time that the lack of a railway link between Russia and Armenia is obstructing the expansion of the trade and economic ties. In connection with this issue, the need to restore the railway through Abkhazia and to take definitive measures in this direction was noted.

The sides also examined the fundamental directions of cooperation in 1996 and subsequently until 2000, which are now being elaborated by groups of experts.

They noted the successful development of ties in the cultural sphere as evinced by the agreement signed today on cooperation in the spheres of culture, science, and higher education.

Albert Chernyshev said that nothing can threaten the two countries millennia-long ties, for the continuation and development of which there exists good conditions.

The deputy Russian foreign minister conveyed Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin's greetings and good wishes to Hrand Bagratian.

Vsevolod Oleandrov, Russian ambassador on special missions; Russian Ambassador to Armenia Andrey Urnov; Vladimir (?Sarikov), adviser to the ambassador; Gagik Shahbazian, minister responsible for relations with the CIS, EU, and international economic organizations; Vardan Sargisian, adviser to the Armenian prime minister; Armenian Deputy Foreign Minister Eduard Zuloian; Armenian Ambassador to Russia Yuri Mkrtumian; Levon Beglarian, chief of staff to the prime minister; and other officials were present at the meeting.

Foreign Ministers Sign Agreements

NC1411094595 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1300 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] An intergovernmental agreement was signed today at the Armenian Foreign Ministry. Our correspondent Lida Ghazarian reports:

[Begin recording] [Ghazarian] A Russian government delegation headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Albert Chernyshev has been visiting Yerevan for the past two days to sign agreements and hold contacts with the leadership of our republic.

Armenian Foreign Minister Vahan Papazian received the delegation in the morning. After the meeting an intergovernmental agreement was signed between the Armenian and Russian governments on cooperation in culture, science, and education and two protocols were signed, one on the consular convention between Russia and Armenia and one on effecting the 1994 agreement on state credits. The agreements were signed by Armenian Foreign Minister Vahan Papazian and Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Albert Chernyshev.

Russian Ambassador to Armenia Andrey Urnov and Armenian Ambassador to Russia Yuri Mkrtumian attended the signing ceremony.

Following the signing of the agreement the sides answered correspondents' questions. [passage omitted]

[Ghazarian continues] Answering correspondents' questions, Papazian and Chernyshev referred to Armenian-Russian ties, cooperation with Iran, the Karabakh conflict, and current problems. [end recording]

Azerbaijan

Aliyev Discusses State Language, Karabakh Status

NC1311175995

[FBIS Editorial Report] Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri at 1600 GMT 12 November 95 carries, as part of its main newscast, a 38-minute report from the No. 17 Election Station in Sabail District where President Heydar Aliyev voted during the parliamentary elections on 12 November.

After casting his vote, Aliyev said that 12 November is an important day in Azerbaijan's history "because the first Constitution of the independent Azerbaijani Republic is being adopted by a referendum today." In addition, he says elections are being held for the parliament of independent Azerbaijan. He adds: "Today we have entered a new stage. We are an independent state. The Azerbaijani people now has the right to determine its own destiny. Therefore, the election of this new Azerbaijani

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parliament is an historic event. Independent Azerbaijan is now electing its own legislative organ. And, these parliamentary elections are being held under full democratic principles."

Aliyev says that as president he worked to create conditions for the people to vote freely, and hopes the elections will be held under full democratic principles. He adds: "The election results will show to what extent we have attained this objective. I do not want to idealize anything. It is difficult to attain ideals in the world. However, we will score an historic achievement if at this election we take a big step on the path of democracy and human freedom."

Asked by a Turkish correspondent to comment on the "political message" implied by the inclusion of the Azerbaijani language [Azerbaycan dili] as the state language in the Constitution, Aliyev says: "This is not a political message. This is a requirement of the history traversed by the Azerbaijani language. Our language is Azerbaijani language, we are Azerbaijanis, and our Republic is know as Azerbaijan. However, from historic, scientific, and philological perspective, the Azerbaijani language belongs to the family of the Turkic languages. Therefore, the Azerbaijani language has its source in the Turkic languages. The Turkic language world is very large. Some 23 Turkic languages existed in the former Soviet Union. Each has its own name, but all belong to the family of Turkic languages. One of them is the Azerbaijani language. Undoubtedly, we drive our source and roots from the Turkic roots. Our language is Azerbaijani language."

Asked how he assesses the opposition's position in the elections, Aliyev says the opposition is free to express its position at the elections. Reminded that the opposition considers the elections as being held under antidemocratic conditions, Aliyev replies: "Each is free to say what he likes and express his own views. However, that does not mean that what everybody says is a law, or the absolute truth. No. They can call it antidemocratic. We have to see what most of the people are saying. If most of the people disagree with their views then it means that their views are not correct." Aliyev described Musavat [Equality] Party's call to boycott the elections as antidemocratic.

Aliyev also denies charges that the Constitution gives excessive powers to the president. He says: "No one could reproach us. The powers recognized to the president by the Constitutional Commission are the ones found in the constitutions of the developed countries which have travelled a great path of democracy. In some cases the Azerbaijani one is superior. For example, the Azerbaijani Constitution does not give the president powers that have been recognized to the presidents in the constitutions adopted by the CIS countries, such as Russia and others. The Azerbaijani president cannot dissolve the parliament. Is this not democracy? Does this not show that the president has not been given excessive powers?"

Asked for whom he voted, Aliyev said he voted for the sculptor Omer Eldarov.

Asked if the new constitution will allow him a "free hand in settling the Nagorno-Karabakh issue," Aliyev replies: "Yes it will. Because our new constitution will be the foundation for the creation of a democratic state in Azerbaijan, because we are proceeding along the path of democracy, and because we are establishing our own fully independent state on democratic foundations and are creating the necessary conditions. I believe that the international community, the democratic countries of the world, and international organizations will undoubtedly be convinced that we will never violate the rights of the Armenians in Nagorno- Karabakh and that they will live freely within Azerbaijan as Azerbaijani citizens. However, at the same time this constitution is a document that fully ensures Azerbaijan's territorial integrity, reiterates the indivisibility of the Azerbaijani territory before the international community, and prevents the usurping of Azerbaijan's sovereignty by any group. Therefore, it will help us resolve the Karabakh problem and the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan."

Asked by a Turkish correspondent if the election will usher in any change in ties with Turkey, Aliyev says: "After the elections we will continue fraternal and friendly relations with Turkey. I had a telephone conversation with my dear friend and brother Suleyman Demirel two days ago. We talked. I invited him here. Suleyman Demirel's official visit to Azerbaijan is expected after the elections and adoption of the constitution. With this and other steps we will consolidate the ties of friendship and fraternity between us."

Asked to comment on his pardon of the CHESHME journalists, Aliyev says the court decision against them was correct. Saying that the opposition's criticism of the government is welcome, Aliyev adds that he respects criticisms from reporters, but that legitimate criticism should not turn into slander. Aliyev says he pardoned the reporters given their young age and because he felt "sorry" for them and their parents.

Asked what he expects from the new parliament, Aliyev says: "I expect strong activity from the new parliament. I expect it to pass new laws. I expect strengthening legislative activity in Azerbaijan."

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Asked to comment on the opposition's view that recognition of the status of the autonomous state to Nakhichevan in the constitution implies giving a similar status to Nagorno-Karabakh, Aliyev says: "In my address to the Constitutional Commission two days ago I said, and I repeat, that these views are aimed at muddying the waters. The autonomous status of Nakhichevan was determined in the early 1920's in accordance with international treaties. There is full grounds for this autonomy. Besides, autonomous entities exist in most of the unitary states in the world. One of them is Azerbaijan with its Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic."

When the reporter interprets this as meaning that the constitution does not recognize any status for Nagorno-Karabakh, Aliyev replies: "Let me tell you frankly. Why do you think that no status could be given to Nagorno-Karabakh? What will be given is not the theme of the present day. However, let no one, those stupid people agitating in the square, think that we are going to destroy Nagorno-Karabakh and massacre all the Armenians and that doing such a thing is just. This is a worthless view. Azerbaijan fell into this situation because of such immature views. Azerbaijan is the homeland of all those living in Azerbaijan regardless of their nationality, religion, language, and origin; including the Armenians living in Nagorno-Karabakh. Nagorno- Karabakh will live within Azerbaijan and it will be given an appropriate status, and normal relations will be created between Armenia and Azerbaijan if the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh desist from their aggressive and separatist actions and if the Armenian Republic desists from military aggression, and if our conditions are accepted. Yesterday I met with the European observers, specifically with the deputy speaker of the French Assembly and others. France waged wars with Germany and Britain for 100 years. Now they are friendly states and belong to the same alliance. This history is before us to see. It is a great mistake if anyone thinks that we will be eternal enemies or eternally wage war with Armenia. World history proves otherwise. A major war took place between Russia and Germany. The presidents of Germany, Russia, the United States, and France kissed each other in Moscow 50 years later. Fascist Hitler's Germany occupied France for four years. The deputy chairman of the assembly told me yesterday he was a refugee for four years after the occupation of France by fascist Germany. However, he said, unlike your refugees I lived not in tents but in a house. Yet, now France and Germany are friendly states and belong to the European Union. This history too should not be forgotten or sidelined. Therefore, one should be objective and correct in such issues."

OSCE Delegation Sees Elections as Step Toward Democracy

NC1311194195 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 13 Nov 95

[Statement by the delegation of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly monitoring the elections to the Azerbaijani National Assembly — read by announcer; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] The statement says that at the invitation of the Azerbaijani parliament a delegation of OSCE Parliamentary Assembly was in Azerbaijan to monitor the parliamentary elections and referendum on the new constitution in Azerbaijan. The delegation includes members of parliaments of eight countries and four members of the international secretariat of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

During their stay in Azerbaijan they met and held talks with the representatives of the political parties, candidates, republic's president, chairman of the Supreme Soviet, chairman of the Supreme Court, and the representatives of the mass media.

The members of the delegation were in Baku and in other regions of the republic during the elections. They monitored the work of more than 100 election centers.

The statement then notes that the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly delegation congratulates the Azerbaijani Republic for holding its first multi-party elections and for the referendum on the new constitution. The delegation considers this as a very important step for the development of democracy. The invitation of foreign observers to such an event is to be appreciated, something that will spur the development of democratic processes.

The statement notes that due to lack of democratic traditions it was only natural for some problems to emerge during the election process. The observers refer to the violation of some principles of the election law on election day. Despite all these, the delegation was convinced that these elections held in Azerbaijan will play a positive role in laying the foundation for democracy in the republic.

European Delegates Cite 'Irregularities'

NC1311135195 Paris AFP in English 1256 GMT 13 Nov 95

[Report by Stephane Orjollet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, Nov 13 (AFP)— European parliamentarians monitoring Azerbaijan's general elections said Monday [13 November] the poll was riddled with irregularities, but stopped short of calling the voting invalid.

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In a statement, the Council of Europe delegation said it "condemns a certain number of irregularities and clear (cases of) fraud" in Sunday's parliamentary election and referendum.

The monitors cited the absence of controls over ballot boxes prior to voting and the presence of more than one person in voting booths.

The text also denounced the exclusion of opposition candidates and parties from the poll, and questioned the accuracy of preliminary results in the southern Caucasus ex-Soviet republic.

But despite their objections, observers nonetheless recognised that the poll constituted a first step towards a more democratic regime in the former Soviet republic.

"A very small step," French deputy Jacques Baumel added.

He said Azerbaijan's current level of democracy meant the republic would not be able to enter the Council of Europe.

Parties opposed to 72-year-old President Heydar Aliyev, including four excluded from the poll, denounced the election as a farce.

Sources at the country's central election commission quoted by Interfax news agency said a concurrent referendum on a draft constitution for Azerbaijan had still not mustered enough votes to be adopted.

The draft basic law, which would significantly expand the powers of Aliyev, required the backing of 75 percent of those voting Sunday to be adopted, but only so far only 70 percent had given their backing, sources said.

Ballot counting was still continuing and official results for the referendum and elections to the 125-seat parliament will not be released for two weeks.

The European monitors said there had been "serious irregularities" in certain parties' difficulty in registering, and the practice of allowing heads of family to vote for their entire families provided identity documents were provided.

In one district, two candidates were struck off the list on the eve of the vote, leaving only one choice — the ruling party candidate.

Azim Mollazade, deputy chairman of the Popular [People's] Front, the only major opposition party allowed to participate, said there had been "massive fraud."

"Almost all the observers from the Front were banned from polling booths in Baku" two hours before voting ended, he said.

"Outside the capital, our monitors were intimidated by the police," he said.

Observers from the United Nations and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) did not immediately give their prognosis.

However, a source close to the OSCE-UN mission also said "there were many problems."

For example, the official participation rate was probably inaccurate, he said, since it jumped dramatically in the last hours of voting.

Russian Observers Note 'No Serious Violations'

NC1311192995 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 13 Nov 95

[Statement by the delegation of the Russian State Duma monitoring the elections to the Azerbaijani National Assembly — read by announcer; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] The delegation notes that at the invitation of the Azerbaijani side an observation group from the State Duma of the Federation Council was present during the parliamentary elections and referendum on the new constitution. The members of the delegation visited the election centers and held a series of meetings with the representatives of the political parties and the republic's leadership. They deem that the elections to the National Assembly were held in accordance with the regulations of the Azerbaijani constitution and election law, and no serious violations of law were noted during the election process.

Turkish Observers Praise Elections

NC1311194995 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 13 Nov 95

[Statement issued at a news conference at the Turkish Embassy in Baku by the Turkish parliament delegation monitoring elections to the Azerbaijani National Assembly — read by announcer; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its statement, the delegation specially noted the fact that the parliamentary elections are being held in Azerbaijan for the first time and that the constitution of the independent Azerbaijani state is being adopted by a referendum. The statement says that under complex socio-political conditions, when the republic faces aggression, the holding of democratic elections is heroism in the real sense of the word. Azerbaijan is attached to the democratic system and we greatly appreciate this attachment. We believe that the democratic elections in Azerbaijan on 12 November and the presence of international observers at these

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elections are of great historic importance, and they have an enormous implication for the future of independent Azerbaijan.

The statement ends with the following words: We wish the free elections held for the first time in Azerbaijan to be auspicious for the future. We are sure that as the supreme legislative organ the new assembly will fulfill its responsibilities.

Georgia

Moscow Ready To Withdraw Troops From Abkhazia

LD1311172195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1447 GMT 13 Nov 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Nov 13 (INTERFAX) — The upcoming parliament elections in Russia will not tell on Russian mediating efforts in settlement of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict, a high-ranking staffer of the Russian Foreign Ministry told INTERFAX.

In his words, "Moscow has certain interests in the region, which do not depend on the political situation and on whose basis Moscow helps normalization of Tbilisi-Sukhumi relations."

At thesame time, Russia is ready to withdraw its peacemakers from Abkhazia if required by a party to the conflict.

The diplomat commented on a recent statement of Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze, who gave to understand Tbilisi will settle the Abkhazian problem independently if the January session of CIS leaders fails to change the regional mandate of the Commonwealth peace-makers and give them police functions.

Moscow considers the presence of CIS peace-makers (which are now solely Russian troops) in the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict zone as an important factor of regional stabilization.

"If any of the conflicting sides opposes their further stay in Abkhazia, Russia will have to abide by this demand," he stressed.

"Consultations are underway on the issue," added the diplomat.

Talks With Abkhazia Resume After Break

LD1311164895 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Georgian 1345 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow [No date as received] — The round of Georgian-Abkhaz talks is continuing here. Georgian-Russian and Abkhaz-Russian delegations are holding intensive meetings. The sides have agreed not to divulge information, hence the details of negotiations are unknown. However, Georgian ambassador to Russia Vazha Lortkipanidze said that the Georgian side is still putting forward intensive demands that the return of refugees and those who were forcibly displaced should be speeded up. The delegation also demands the working out of a political status for Abkhazia which would not be based on the principles of confederation but would be in accordance with the principles of Georgia's territorial integrity and the country's constitution.

After a three-day break, talks and consultations on the political settlement of the conflict resumed today.

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Lithuania

Foreign, Defense Ministers Depart for WEU Meeting

WS1411112295 Tallinn BNS in English 1617 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Nov 13, BNS — Lithuanian ministers of foreign affairs and defense Povilas Gylys and Linas Linkevicius left Monday [13 November] to represent Lithuania at a meeting of foreign affairs and defense ministers of the Western European Union [WEU] in Madrid.

At the meeting which begins Tuesday, cooperation between the Western European Union and its associate partners, including Lithuania, will be discussed.

The formulation of a consolidated European defense policy and the situation in former Yugoslavia will also be discussed at the meeting.

Landsbergis Welcomes Vilnius's Tough Stance in Oil Dispute

LD1311174795 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Russian 1300 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A news conference was held today by Dr. Vytautas Landsbergis, chairman of the Homeland Union, and Gediminas Vagnorius, chairman of the party's administration board. After the news conference, Dr. Landsbergis agreed to answer some questions for our program.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] The first question: today you concentrated on international relations, including the conflict between Lithuania and Latvia. What could you say about this continuing crisis?

[Landsbergis] I would not call it conflict. Certainly, the problem has certain sharp edges, but there are bright sides to it as well. The Lithuanian Government has, at long last, done what it should have done in May or in June 1995. At that time, we learned about a secret deal signed [by Lithuanian and Latvian presidents and prime ministers] in Maisiagala [a town near Vilnius]. The top state officials signed, in unclear circumstances, after a hunting expedition, a document that is highly unfavorable to Lithuania. This document should have been denounced at once, admitting one's mistake, or guilt, or whatever we call it. However, the government and president tried to get away with it; they kept saying that nothing wrong would come out of it, that the Latvian side gave some verbal promises, and so on.

But finally, we satisfied ourselves, and the people were mostly convinced that the Latvian side, despite all genuine or imagined assurances that we got from our leaders, acted in an egoistic manner and not in line with good neighborly relations.

[Correspondent] But why did it happen, Dr. Landsbergis? Only recently we all were speaking about Baltic unity. We all remember that. Does it mean that now times have changed?

[Landsbergis] The unity was there at the time when Sajudis [independence movement] was gaining strength and when the independence struggle was in the process. Indeed, at that time different political forces and different groups of society realized their common tasks and common goal. But very soon everyone decided that things were OK already and we all are safe here. There emerged a wish to have something not to be shared with others, even if this ran counter to national interests. The same thing happened now, too, only on a larger scale: the Latvian Government, ignoring the joint Baltic political interests, decided to take this step.

However, I would like to emphasize that Lithuania at last did the right thing: it denounced all written and verbal agreements [with Latvia on maritime border]. I would like to note that President Brazauskas managed to overcome his own mistake and allowed it to be corrected. The most important thing now is not to damage what has been achieved. Some people wish, or are able to, damage the situation as a result of their lack of experience or lighthearted attitude. Some indications of this have already emerged.

[Correspondent] What do you mean?

[Landsbergis] I mean what I say. Sometimes Prime Minister Slezevicius talks about disputed territory.

[Correspondent] But it is disputed, is it not?

[Landsbergis] If Lithuania says: it is our territory, it is our shelf, and here is the line to the south of which is Lithuania's sovereignty, it means that no one should say that maybe it can be the other way. Such statements make our position weaker. There is certain lightheartedness in the prime minister's words from time to time. [sentence indistinct]

[Correspondent] The whole issue seems to be more a matter of principle than a question of economic benefit, does it not?

[Landsbergis] There is both the principle and various interests of Lithuania involved. When some people say that there is a problem with oil and this oil can be divided between us, such words make many more important questions fade away. For example, the Lithuanian territorial waters might have been cut out from the rest of the Baltic Sea, which would mean

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that we would be able to enter the sea only through Latvian or Russian territorian waters, which would have been entirely absurd. There is also a question of airspace control and the related income. Prime Minister Slezevicius had earlier spoken about this issue, saying that the question of maritime border must be resolved as soon as possible since Latvia earns money from servicing Lithuania's airspace.

[Correspondent] Let's return to the question from which we started: how do you expect Baltic unity to develop? Considering such obstacles, is it not difficult to speak about any solidarity and joint activities in entering the European structures?

[Landsbergis] All three Baltic states must understand their priorities, and their priority is solidarity, which means joint integration into Western structures, without arguments and fights between themselves, since it runs counter to the main goal. If the main goal is Europe and not grabbing a piece of the neighbor's property, then you Latvians should give these pieces of property back, and the issues then will be solved in some way, but not by forcefully thrusting some decision onto one's neighbor. [end recording]

Negative Report by Romanian MP May Delay CE Accession

WS1411112195 Tallinn BNS in English 1804 GMT 13 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Nov 13, BNS — Because of the unfortunately widely publicized conclusions on Lithuania by Romanian MP Gheorge Frunda, the country has been placed in the IIIrd category of states, which have serious problems fulfilling their obligations to the Council of Europe [CE]. Only the IVth category is lower, comprised of countries running the risk of expulsion from the CE, said Algirdas Gricius, the deputy chairman of the Lithuanian parliamentary committee on foreign affairs, at a press conference Monday [13 November].

Gricius headed the Lithuanian delegation to the CE's parliamentary assembly session in Strasbourg last week, where Frunda's conclusions were discussed. In Frunda's report, Lithuania is charged among other things with violating the rights of national minorities, mistreatment of prisoners and not ratifying several important international conventions.

For the negative assessment of the CE, Gricius blames not only certain Lithuanian institutions, including the ministry of justice, for their inactivity, but also the primitive system of examination of the CE, allowing one man, who visited the country for only a couple of days, to decide on how Lithuania was living up to its commitments.

According to Lithuanian MPs in the CE, Gheorge Frunda's conclusions are unspecific and ungrounded.

Gricius also noted that Lithuania, after becoming a member of the CE, made commitments in only two concrete areas. The most important was to promise to ratify the European convention on the protection of human rights and basic liberties, as well as the major protocols of this convention. Lithuania did not even commit itself to ratify the VIth protocol of the convention, which provides for abolition of the death sentence. Frunda's conclusions, however, concern among other things Lithuania's legal system, which, though perhaps debatable and imperfect, is completely unconnected with Lithuania's commitments to the CE, Gricius said.

Gricius said that he had requested the committee on political affairs to send a larger and more varied group of observers to Lithuania. Moreover, he demanded that a new reporter to the committee on juridical affairs be appointed.

The MP also said he would send off in two days a short commentary which he had prepared on Frunda's conclusions to the CE's committee on political affairs.

A more detailed reply to the charges of the Romanian MP will be prepared by a special parliamentary working group, headed by Juozas Bernatonis, parliamentary deputy chairman, before December 17.

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